

the groves church

ADVENT SERIES

THE COMING KING

**GRO
VES**
church

The Coming King

“Jesus is coming look busy,” a phrase hilariously tattooed on the Arch Bishop of Canterbury’s bottom in the film *Jonny English*. It can seem strange and maybe even funny to some to say we’re waiting for Jesus to return but scripture says that he is the One who has come, is coming and will come again.

What does it mean to await the coming King? Israel went through this exact thing. The Old Testament is jam packed full of prophecy about a coming King, a Messiah, a Saviour. One who would deliver and restore God’s people. He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). He would arrive in Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9), He would suffer and die (Isaiah 52:13-53:12/Psalm 22:15-16) and he would rise again (Psalm 16:8-11). The list is very large (around 300 messianic prophecies) and very specific, even down to people gambling for his possessions as he dies (Psalm 22:18). So we can know with confidence that the Old Testament is God’s word and he can speak to us through it.

Advent is a season in the church of waiting. We waiting in anticipation of the birth of the promised Messiah, the One who will sort everything out. It is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.

Our hope in this series is that as you engage with the book of Isaiah you begin to make room in your heart, ready for Jesus Christ to be born there this Christmas time. We pray you experience more of God’s character and his heart for his people. He is a God of love who sends his Son into the world to save us.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Word Study: Peace - Isaiah 9:1-7..... | 3 |
| Word Study: Hope - Isaiah 11:1-9..... | 6 |
| Word Study: Joy - Isaiah 51:1-11..... | 9 |
| Word Study: Love - Isaiah 61:1-7..... | 12 |
| Hear the Good news - Isaiah 52: 7-10..... | 16 |
| Proclaim the Saviour - Isaiah 62:10-12..... | 18 |
| Rejoice at his coming - Isaiah 35:1-10..... | 20 |
| Prepare the way - Luke 1:67-69 & 76-79..... | 22 |

Word study: Peace

Isaiah 9:1-7

Watch 'Shalom/Peace' video - (<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>)

Introduction

Isaiah 9:1-7 shows us what the coming Messiah will bring about. Isaiah is prophesying over Israel at a time of great turmoil. The Davidic line (the kings coming after David) had finally been rejected ending with Ahaz (Isaiah 7). Everything has become very doom and gloom for Israel as they are facing the invading Assyrians. Naphtali, part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and suffered greatly at the hands of Tiglath-Pilsner III king of Assyria. Isaiah 8 ends with the words, "Then they will look towards the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness." So in short, the forecast is not looking positive! And then comes Isaiah 9 and with it hope.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Questions

- In verse 1 what will the coming of this Messiah bring about?
- We know Naphtali was humbled at the hands of Assyria, but how will the change the future?
- Any thoughts on how it was honoured (Matt 4:12-17 may be helpful).
- What does this say about God?
- The theme of darkness and light continues in verse 2 what does the dawning of the light bring with it?
- What metaphors does Isaiah use in verse 3 to describe the kind of joy the Messiah will bring with him?
- Can you think of why 'harvest' and 'dividing plunder' might be a joyful activity?
- What is the promise of God that the coming Messiah brings with him from verse 3?

(Note: Midian was defeated by Gideon and their domination of Israel ended- Jdg 7:22-25.)

- What is Isaiah saying the Messiah will do in verse 4?

- What images does he use to express this?
- What do these say about the kind of freedom from oppression the Messiah will bring?
- In verse 5 Isaiah is saying that under the Messiah war will cease - how does he say this?
- This will all happen through the birth of a child (v6), why might this be a surprising twist to the narrative of victory and success?
- What does it say about God and the way he views and uses weakness?
- Verse 6 tells us a son is given, what are the names he is given?

Wonderful Counsellor - *points to the Messiah as a king who determines upon and carries out a programme of action.*

Mighty God - *He has divine power*

Everlasting Father - *He will be an enduring, compassionate provider and protector*

Prince of Peace - *his rule will bring wholeness and well-being to individuals and society*

NIV Study Bible

- God promised Israel he would come and do this. He did in Jesus. Where do you see these names being actualised in the life of Jesus?
- How long will the coming King's reign last?
- How all this be accomplished?
- What does this passage say about who God is and what God is like?

Application

- Have a look at the list of names of the coming Messiah, what do you believe is true of God in your experience and what do you find hard to believe?
- This passage shows us that God does not leave places and people in darkness. Rather he comes as the light to shine in the darkness created by the world or ourselves. What do you need God to come and shine a light into at this time?
- From our word study we learnt that 'peace' comes from the Hebrew 'shalom' meaning 'wholeness' or 'completeness'. How does this change your view of peace? What does this mean God is offering you in Jesus and are you experiencing it in your life?



שלום



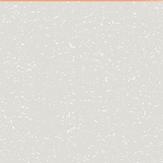
PEACE



SHALOM



RECONCILED ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, MAKING PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS



Word study: Hope

Isaiah 11:1-9

Watch 'Yakhal/ Hope' video - (<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>)

Introduction

As in our last study, with a movement from darkness to light, Isaiah opens this chapter with a movement from despair to hope. Chapter 10 ends with the destruction of forests "lofty trees will be felled, the tall brought low" he's speaking here of the pride of nations and people who set themselves up against God, both Assyria and Israel are included. A picture of despair is then changed to one of hope, Israel's enemies have been chopped down never to grow again (Assyria), but Israel, although currently humbled by God, will grow again, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse." Isaiah speaks of hope in the form of a person, a Messiah (who we first meet in 9:6-7) who will set up a new kingdom.

Read Isaiah 11:1-9

Questions

- What does the stump Isaiah speaks about represent?
- What does the shoot mean for the fallen house of David? (2 Samuel 7:11b-16)
- The shoot spoken of by Isaiah represents the coming Messiah, what do verse 1-2 say he'll be like?
- What qualities in verse 1-3 are used to qualify him as a Messianic ruler?
- Why do they make him fit to rule?
- Verses 3b-5, look at the character of the Messiah, what is he like?
- What does it mean to 'judge in righteousness?'
- Why is it important to judge in righteousness over and above what is seen and heard?
- What does verse 4 suggest about the power of his spoken word?

- What seem to be the central concerns of the Messiah?
- Do you think justice for the poor and oppressed are a central concern of the Church today?
- Verse 6-9 tell us about the ideal state of affairs which will result from the Messiah's rule. What will it look like?
- Why might these verse contain images of an Eden like state upon the earth?
- Why might this message have been one full of hope for Israel? Why might it be one for us today?
- According to these verse who and where will enjoy this good reign of the Messiah?
- How do we see this passage fulfilled in the advent of Jesus? What has come and what are we still waiting for?

Application

- God speaks hope to Israel, in the midst of despair. The hope he speaks of is a comfort but it is a future hope. We live in the reality and fulfilment of that hope and yet we are still awaiting the second and final advent of Jesus. - With this in mind, what new hope have you discovered through this passage that you can apply to troubles you are currently facing?
- God seems to have a huge concern (some have even dared to write 'bias towards') the poor and oppressed. How are you sharing in God's heart today in the way you think about, love and care for those who are poor and oppressed?
- As part of our Christian discipleship we are called to become more like Jesus. This is a work of grace (a gift from God) in our lives. When you look at the character of the Isaiah's Messiah, Jesus Christ, what areas would you like to ask God to grow and change in you?
- What would it look like for you to live as Jesus as your hope today? Also, living in the hope of his second advent, when he comes back to rule as king forever?

And now, O Lord what else can I
QAVAH for? You are my YAKHAL.

Psalms 39:7

YAKHAL

HOPE

QAVAH

REBORN into
NEW and
DIFFERENT
KINDS OF HUMANS

1 PETER 1:3

At this moment, the Lord
is hiding his face from
Israel, so I will QAVAH
for Him.
Isaiah 8:17

God's
PAST

Faithfulness that motivates

HOPE FOR THE
FUTURE

WAITING
TENSE
EXPECTATIONS

Word study: Joy

Isaiah 51:1-11

Watch Chara/Joy video - (<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>)

Introduction

There is a path that winds its way through this passage with one purpose. That the pilgrim might walk it and arrive at the destination of verse 11. This is the goal of the Christian. Arrival in Zion (the City of God, the place where God dwells (*Rev 21:1-4*)) and experiencing the joy of God. Now for the original hearers pilgrimage to Zion (Jerusalem) was something they knew about and understood. Three times a year for various festivals people would come to Zion from all over the place to celebrate. It was full of joy. Whole families meeting other families along the road and travelling together towards the destination of Zion and a serious party! It was a time of communities enjoying the goodness and God and celebrating all he had done for them.

Some however had not experienced this wonderful pilgrimage because of the exile. It was something only talked about, shared with fond memories of times past. For them it was an awaited hope rather than a lived reality. These are the people God is addressing in verse 1. Those who 'pursue righteousness'. God is wanting to encourage them to keep going, he promises them that the Messiah, salvation, is near, and ultimately it will end in a party!

Read Isaiah 51:1-11

Questions

- Who is God addressing in this opening verse?
- How does he comfort them in verses 1-2?
- Who are Abraham and Sarah and how is appealing to them encouraging for the hearers? (Gen 12:1-3)
- How does God look upon the literal and emotional brokenness of his people?
- What are his promises to them in their brokenness?
- Verses 4-6 allude to a call to the nations, what is God saying is in store for them?
- What is God's justice and how is it a light to the nations?

- What is the salvation that draws near speedily? (5)
- In verse 6 what is God's promise to those who keep trusting him? How would this be a comfort to the hearers?
- What hope can we find in God's salvation lasting forever? How might this have helped God's people when facing opposition such as that found in v7?
- Isaiah is talking about a hope that comes at the end of exile in Babylon but at the same time talking about the coming of God to put everything right again in the end. The second Advent. Isaiah cries out in v9-10, what does he want to see God do?
- How is this cry echoed in the New Testament? Should it be our cry today?
- Who are the people who 'return' in v11?
- What does it mean to be the ransomed of the LORD?
- What is the privilege that the ransomed enjoy?
- How does this encourage the original hearers to keep going?

Application

- Israel is in exile, struggling to find reason to hope and yet, some are still seeking the LORD and pursuing righteousness because of their relationship with him. Are there places in your life where you've simply given up hope. How can you find encouragement in this passage today to keep going?
- God encourages Israel to look backwards to what he's done. Take a look back at what God has done in your life. This week take one thing a day and use it to form the basis of your prayer time.
- God tells Israel not to fear peoples reproach, but to look to him and all he's done. Are there situations or people right now who seem big and scary? Can you spend time looking at the gospel and all Jesus has done, so that these fears can shrink away?
- How often do you think about the second advent and your future hope in Jesus? Maybe spend some time this week meditating on all God has promised you, which is still to come.



Good news that brings great **JOY**.

Luke 2:10

גיל
JOY
χαρά

The Lord caused his people to leave with **JOY**, his chosen ones with shouts of **JOY**.

Psalms 105:45

Those redeemed by the Lord will return to Zion with glad shouts, eternal joy crowning their heads, happiness and **JOY** will overtake them.

Isaiah 51:11

JOY of faith.

Philippians 1:25

JOY in the Lord.

Philippians 3:1

Rejoiced and gave thanks to God his Father.

Luke 10:21

Full of **JOY**.

Acts 13:52

When people reject and persecute you for following me, rejoice and be very glad, because your reward is great in heaven.

Matthew 5:12

Being full of sorrow, and yet rejoicing.

Corinthians 6:10

Word Study: Love

Isaiah 61

Watch Agape/Love video - (<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>)

Introduction

This part of Isaiah brings together all that has gone before. It is the culmination of Isaiah's gospel of what God is doing and will do through his coming Messiah. There are two main themes at work over the coming chapters. The year of the Lord's favour (61) and the day of God's vengeance (63). The opening voice is one we have met before (42:1 and 11:1), none other than the coming Messiah. He is the servant in ch.40-55 and the Messiah of ch.1-35, and now he speaks (1-6). This is then followed by the voice of God confirming his coming King (7-9) and then the rejoicing of those living in all that the coming Messiah brings with him (10-11).

The 'year of the Lord's favour' carries echoes of Jubilee. A biblical command by God to his people to 'press reset' every 50th year. Land would be returned, anyone who'd fallen into slavery would be set free, all debt would be cancelled and many other things. Sadly, it's not clear whether Israel ever actually managed it!

Read Isaiah 61

Questions

- Verse 2 bring into to focus the Messiah's goal, 'To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' - In verses 1-2 what does this look like?
- What is good news to poor?
- How might this good news changes lives?
- In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus quotes and claims this passage as fulfilled in himself. Do you notice where he stops the quote, what does this say about the 'time/age' in which we are currently living?
- How did Jesus bestow a crown of beauty upon those who were mourning?
- What does it mean to wear a garment of praise? (3)
- What will those who are freed by the Messiah be called? (3)

- What does being called an 'oak of righteousness' say about how people will be restored by the Messiah?
- In verse 4, who is it the will rebuild ancient ruins?
- What might this look like?
- Verse 6 alludes to the calling of all who follow Jesus, what is it and what does it mean?
- The firstborn son in a family would always receive a double portion of the inheritance. What then is the Messiah saying in verse 7 about what he will give to those he frees?
- What is the inheritance of those who follow Jesus?
- **In verse 8-9**, God speaks. What does he love and hate? How is this seen in the life of Jesus?
- What is the everlasting covenant God makes with us and how does he make it?
- Who is God talking about in verse 9?
- How does this fulfil God's promise to Abraham back in Genesis 12:1-3?
- **In verse 10-11** a person responds to living in the freedom of the Messiah.
- What is his first response to this grace he has received?
- What has the LORD done for him?
- If he is clothed in righteousness and salvation, where has it come from? What does this say about how we are saved and made right with God?
- The recipient of this grace is rejoicing for himself, what does he express is his future hope for this wonderful ministry of God? (11)

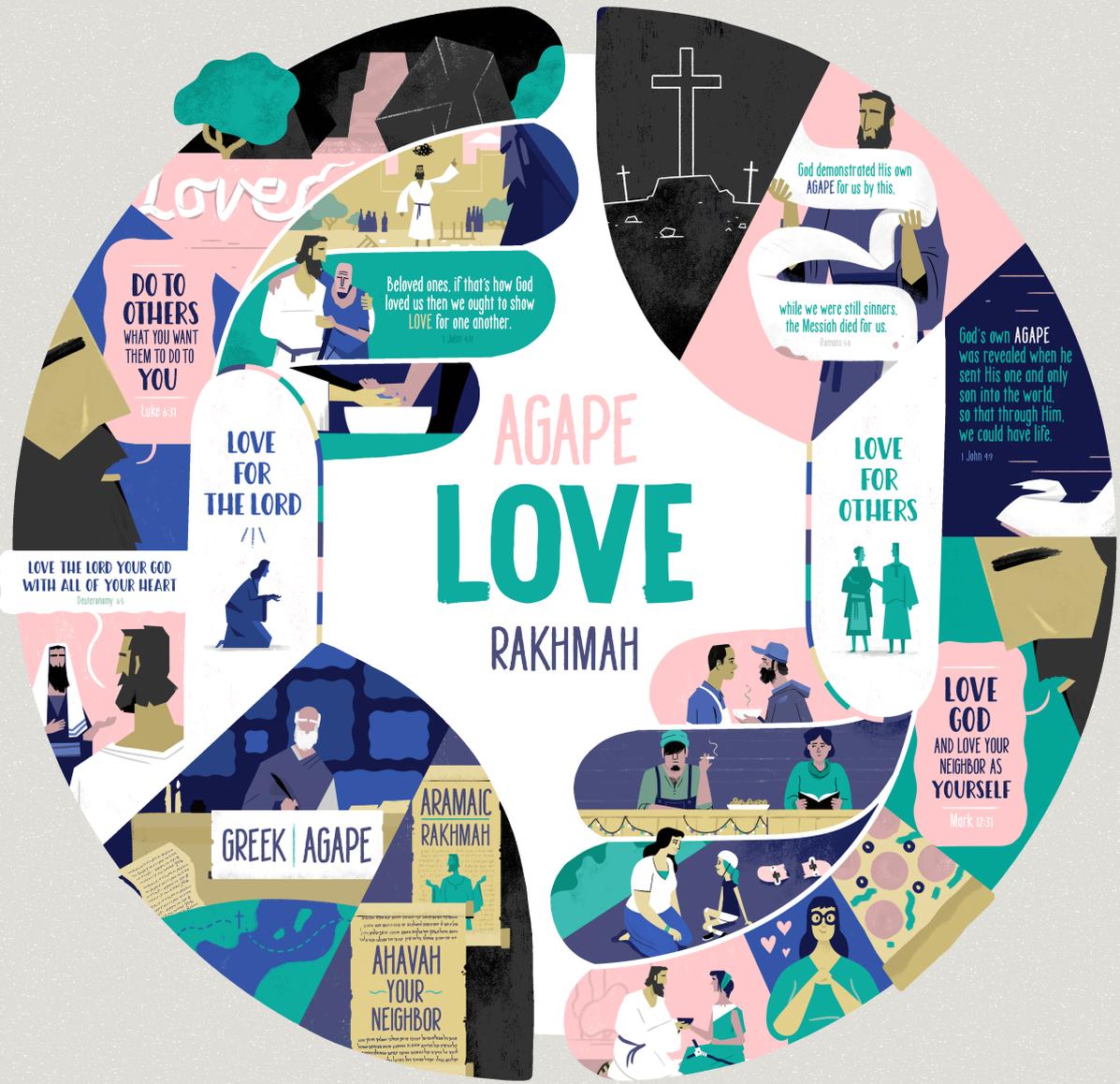
Application

Jesus fulfils this prophetic word about the coming Messiah. He bring freedom, hope and healing. Are there places in your life that need setting free, healing or forgiveness?

You are called to be build up by Jesus like an oak of righteousness, in what ways are you growing in your discipleship journey at the moment?

Those saved by Jesus respond to this grace by rebuilding ruins around them. Who are the people, places or situations in your life who are in ruins and need rebuilding? What can you be praying for them? How can you bless them practically?

This is news is good news for 'all nations', how can we as a church and individuals be part of this?



Hear the Good News

Isaiah 52:7-10



Read Isaiah 52:7-10

Questions

- What is the good news message? (v7)
- What is 'salvation' and the 'reign of God'?
- How does this refer to Jesus?
- How can you live your whole life based on God's reign and salvation?
- How is the messenger viewed? (v7)
- Why is the messenger important? (see Romans 10:13-15)

- How can you act as a messenger in daily life?
- Who responds to the message? (v8-9)
- What is the reaction of the watchmen?
- Who can respond to Jesus today? (watchmen: compare Luke 2:8)
- What is the event that brings such joy? (v8-9)
- What does 'redeemed' mean?
- Who or what has Jesus redeemed?
- How can we better express our joy of salvation?
- Who will see God's power and salvation? (v10)
- Who has Jesus come for?
- How can we develop a vision and concern for 'all peoples' 'to the ends of the earth'?

Application

- Think of an act of love you can do as a practical way to live out the good news.
- Who can you pray for to understand the good news?
- Think of a way to express joy daily, eg in praise?
- Identify a group of people, overseas or marginalised, who you can learn about and pray for?

Proclaim the Saviour

Isaiah 62:10-12



Read Isaiah 62:10-12

- What is being prepared and built in readiness for the Saviour? (v10)
- Who will use the way?
- How did Jesus come for all peoples not just Israel?
- Reflect on John 14:6 and Acts 24:14. How does that add to our understanding of the way?
- How can we prepare and build up others to meet the Saviour?
- To whom is the proclamation made? (v 11)

- What is the proclamation?
- What is the Saviour going to accomplish?
- How did Jesus do this?
- In what way is this the climax of the bible's story?
- How can we better grasp what Jesus has accomplished for us?
- What are the four names of the new community that result from the Saviour? (v12)
- What do they mean? (Holy means dedicated to God).
- How are they fulfilled by Jesus?
- What do they say about our church and what we should do?

Application

- Take some time to reflect on Jesus being your saviour this week?
- Think of a practical way to build up another in their knowledge of Jesus?
- Think of what we can do as a church to proclaim Jesus more?

Rejoice at his coming

Isaiah 35:1-10



Introduction

This week, we continue with the prophesy of Isaiah. Here, Isaiah gives a glorious picture of what is to come for those living in the wilderness. Isaiah is prophesying what will happen to the captive Israelites; but this is also a prophesy of the coming of Jesus. Jesus' birth, life and death has fulfilled this prophecy and this Word serves as promise for everyone today who is living captive to sin. It is a beautiful picture of our ultimate return home to be with Jesus.

Read Isaiah 35:1-10

The Promises that will transform your wilderness

1. What is promised to the desert and the wilderness (end of verse 2)? What is the response to this?
 - a. The captive Israelites would have been familiar with the literal wilderness; what does the wilderness look like for us?

2. What is promised in verse 4? How was this prophesy fulfilled?

3. How can we use this as an encouragement for ourselves and to those who are struggling (verse 3)?

God performs miracles

4. Isaiah prophesies physical transformation for those who are blind, deaf, lame and mute (verse 5-6). See Mark 10:46-52 (Bartimaeus), Mark 7: 31-37; John 5:1-9
5. Verses 6 and 7 extend the promise of that which is only possible with God. Spend a moment considering (and asking God) which areas of your life need God's living water.

Our hope for the future

6. What will be built in the wilderness (verse 8) and where does it lead to (verse 10)?
7. Who will be found on the Way of Holiness (verse 9)? Jesus has made this possible for everyone!
8. Is it easy to stay on the Holy Way?
9. Consider how we feel when we return home (verse 10). Also see Revelation 21 v 4.
 - a. How can we live our lives demonstrating the hope of this promise and the truth of the gospel?

Final Thought:

"Engineering has done much to tunnel mountains, and bridge abysses; but the greatest triumph of engineering is that which made a way from sin to holiness, from death to life, from condemnation to perfection. Who could make a road over the mountains of our iniquities but Almighty God? None but the Lord of love would have wished it; none but the God of wisdom could have devised it; none but the God of power could have carried it out." (Spurgeon)

Prayer:

We daily wander from obedience to God and into the open arms of sin, death, and devil. "We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves." We daily need water in the wilderness to strengthen our weary knees and to renew our faltering faith.

Study written by Caroline McCarthy

Prepare the way

Luke 1:67-69 & 76-79



Introduction

Luke 1: 67-69

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a horn[a] of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David

Luke 1 76-79

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,

78 because of the tender mercy of our God,

by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

79 to shine on those living in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.

This is the song of Zechariah, a priest of many years, who held a miracle child in his arms and contemplated the seismic shift that was taking place in his lifetime. Nothing like this had ever happened and Zechariah had to sing!

Questions

Verses 67-69

1. Zechariah begins in praise, thanking God for remembering them. Who is Zechariah singing about in verses 68-69?
2. What does he mean by a “horn of salvation?”
3. He says that the people have been redeemed – what do you understand by this?
 - a. How can you explain the use of the past tense in these verses?

Verses 77-79

Zechariah turns to his new baby and prophesies over him about his role will be in this great story.

4. What will John the Baptist do?
 - a. Also see Isaiah 40 v3-5
 - b. Why do we need to prepare for Jesus?
 - c. How can we follow John’s example today – by preparing the way for others to come to know Jesus?
5. John’s message will be one of salvation through forgiveness of sins by Jesus Christ. How and why do we continue to ask for forgiveness of sins? What is true repentance?
6. Verse 78 – Why has God sent his son?
7. Who has the Messiah been sent for?
8. Finally, the sun has broken the horizon on a dark world. It’s the end of hopeless living. For those beyond rescue, there is light and freedom.
 - a. Can you think of anyone who is living in darkness or grief-stricken this Christmas? What hope can you bring to them?

This is a song of praise to a loving, merciful God who longs for his light to pierce your life. His plans are big – he’s rolling back death. God is rolling back evil. God is rolling back sin. God is restoring peace, and that is big thinking this Christmas. Perhaps it is worth spending some time reflecting on God’s Almighty power to make the impossible happen and praising him for all he has done for us.

Pray big prayers this Christmas!



**GRO
VES**
church