

See, Your Saviour Comes (Isaiah 62:7-12 & Luke 2:1-21) 25-Dec-18 ¹

It would be good to have your Bibles opened up to Isaiah 62 and then Luke 2.

You can take notes on the sermon outline in your bulletin.

Let me pray, before we start... Let's pray.

Intro

If you ever watch one of those beauty pageants on TV - like Miss World or Miss Universe - or if you've watched the Miss Congeniality movies

The one thing all the contestants ask for when there are interviewed is:

WORLD PEACE!

Wouldn't that be great!

To have peace in our lives...

Here's an artist's impression of peace

[\[PowerPoint 1-Waterfall, Peace\]](#)

[\[Explain\]](#)

A Promised Saviour (Isaiah 62:6-12)

In our OT reading from the Book of Isaiah, this morning

[\[PowerPoint 2-Context\]](#)

The context is that the people of Israel are in exile in Babylon (modern day Iraq) - 586BC - exiled because of their continual disobedience and rebellion against God

It's hardly a peaceful situation - they are in a foreign land - away from their homeland - and being ruled harshly by a foreign power

And they need rescuing - they need peace back in their lives...

Through the prophet Isaiah - God promises a time is coming when they will be rescued and return to their homeland - and peace will be restored

This passage from Isaiah - paints a picture of watchmen on the ruined walls of Jerusalem - in v6-7- watching day and night - waiting for God to act - pestering God to act - giving Him no rest - until He reestablishes Jerusalem again

And then God answers!

See v8-9 - God promises that never again will Israel's enemies take their food or drink their wine

There's a time coming - v10 - when all the people will pass through the city gates - returning to the city

This promise was actually fulfilled in 516BC - 70 years after being exiled - the people of Israel returned to their homeland and as v12 says - Zion - the city of Jerusalem will be called "Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted"

[PowerPoint 3-Promised Saviour]

But this passage has another fulfilment to come

See v11 - the Lord proclaims:

The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward [His price] is with him, and his recompense [His making amends] accompanies him.'"

A Saviour is coming!

Isaiah wrote this about 700-800 years before Jesus

God promises a Saviour is coming and His reward is with Him and His recompense accompanies Him

His rewards (literally means He has a price to pay) - His recompense (literally means He will make amends)

God's promise came true - 700-800 years after Isaiah

Which brings us to the birth of this Saviour in our NT passage from Luke 2

[\[Please turn to Luke 2\]](#)

The Birth of the Saviour (Luke 2:1-15)

In Luke chapter 2:

[\[PowerPoint 4-Map\]](#)

- Mary and Joseph - who are engaged to be married - have to go to Joseph's hometown - for a census - and for taxation purposes (vv1-3)
- Joseph hometown is Bethlehem
- So, they travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem (MAP) - about 130km - 80 miles - at 20 miles per day - 4 days at least - perhaps a week
- Mary is expecting a child
- We know from Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 1 - this child is the Son of God - placed in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit - and that Mary is a virgin - so this is a miraculous birth

- And she gives birth to the child in a stable (cave or shed) because there was no guest room for them - it's a humble birth - the baby is placed in a manger (an animal feeding trough)
- The birth fulfils the prophecy of Micah 5:2 - which tells us the Promised Saviour will be born in Bethlehem
- Bethlehem means House of Bread - and this child will grow up to be referred to as the Bread of Heaven - the Bread of Life - eternal life
- An angel appears to a bunch of shepherds watching their sheep and declares this amazing news that Today - a saviour has been born - This baby is The Messiah - God's chosen anointed one
- Why did the angel appear to the shepherds? After all shepherds were outcasts - stinky - not popular. But it shows this baby Saviour has been born for EVERYONE - not just the popular and elite people
- This birth is cause for great celebration - so much so - that a choir of heavenly angels - sing "*Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests*"
- What is this peace the angels refer to?

[PowerPoint 5-Video]

[Watch DVD]

- Those soldiers (on both sides) in the midst of "*the war to end all wars*" - saw there was something greater than themselves - something greater than their cause - something greater than two countries at war, trying to prove who was right?
- They remembered a saviour child born - because of God's love for people

[PowerPoint 6-Picture of Jesus/Boat]

- The peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with us always - even in the midst of trouble - even in the midst of a war!

[PowerPoint 7-Pathway to Peace]

- The peace Jesus brings - is peace to fix the broken relationship between God and humans - because of human sin and rebellion against God. Jesus brings peace and reconciliation between God and humans
- But that peace was costly for Jesus
- Remember the Isaiah prophecy (in v11) - the Saviour would have His reward (price) with Him and His recompense (making amends) accompanies Him
- Jesus' price to be bring peace with God - was His life given up on the cross for the Sin of the world - that's what the soldiers remembered
- His recompense (his making amends) - was to make amends for our sin - and take the guilt and punishment on Himself - so peace with God can be made and so we can have forgiveness
- This peace means - that when God looks at those who believe in Jesus as their Saviour - God sees Jesus in front of each believer - and so as Isaiah says in v12 - God can see us as **His Holy People** - and God can see us as **Redeemed**. That is, we have been bought back to God - by Jesus paying the price for us to be bought back

Responses to the Saviour (Isaiah 62:6-7; Luke 2:16-21)

So how will we respond to Jesus the Saviour - this Christmas morning?

[PowerPoint 8a-Resp 1]

1. We need to be like the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem - waiting for the rescue plan to materialize. These watchmen were told to give God no rest until the rescue was complete. We must give God no rest until everyone we know has been rescued by Jesus - we need to be praying for all those who don't know Jesus - to come and believe in the only ONE who can save us from the punishment of our sins. The only ONE who offers forgiveness of sins - and restores the broken relationship between humans and God - and the only ONE who offers the hope of everlasting life in Heaven. Are we praying for this? Are we giving God no rest from our prayers? God can handle it?

[PowerPoint 2b-Resp 2]

2. We need to be like the Shepherds - they say - *"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about"* We need to be saying to ourselves - *"Let's go to God's Word - lets read and see and understand and meditate on His Word - and learn and believe what God has told us about Himself and about His Son - and about living a life that pleases God"*

God has given us the gift of Jesus - He is the Living Word of God. To get close to Him we need to come to His Word. The Bible is God's gift to us - which keeps on giving - every day of our lives. But maybe our Bibles - are dusty - sitting on the bookshelf - until perhaps Christmas comes around - and we pick it up - and read a couple of chapters of Luke and Matthew - and then put it back on the shelf till next year. We should be using our Bibles - like most people use their mobile phones these days - mobile

phones are never out of people's hands, are they? People walk across the street - and nearly get run over - or they bump into lampposts.

[PowerPoint 8c-Resp 3]

3. We need to be like the Shepherds and spread the word - go and tell everyone you meet - today at church - we learnt about someone who stopped a war - He's that powerful - He's that awesome - He's that worthy of respect and honour - He actually stopped a war! And He brings peace to our hearts - and peace between God and humans

[PowerPoint 8d-Resp 4]

4. We need to be like Mary - Jesus' mother - she treasured everything she heard from the shepherds about her baby. Are we treasuring everything we have heard about Jesus - and pondering it in our hearts? Jesus is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lord's, God's Chosen Saviour - The Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World. The Light of the world - calling people out of the darkness of their sin - He's the Bread of Life - giving eternal life. He's living water welling up into eternal life. And so, and so on.

Jesus is our life now - and our life to come in Heaven

[PowerPoint 8e-Resp 5]

5. We need to also realize that the Isaiah passage has a further fulfilment - when Jesus - the Saviour - is coming again one day. Are we ready? Have we believed in Him? Is He our Saviour? Are we one of his Holy People, one of His redeemed? Have we shared Jesus with everyone?

[PowerPoint 8f-Resp 6]

6. Finally - We need to be like the Shepherds glorifying and praising God - that He sent Jesus in the first place - we didn't deserve to be saved - we didn't earn it - but God's grace - He's gift on that first Christmas Day was to fulfil the promise He gave to the prophet - "See, Your Saviour Comes"

Let's pray...