



<http://eagle-peak.blogspot.com/2016/12/winter-always-turns-into-spring.html>

Everything Sad Coming Untrue

Why Jesus Came and Why He's Coming Back

The Lord always keeps his promises.
Psalm 145:13 NLT

The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8.19-22

No longer will there be any curse.
Revelation 22.3

Everything sad is going to come untrue.
JRR Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
"Joy to the World," Isaac Watts

Eight hundred years before it happened, Isaiah anticipated the coming of the Messiah. In compelling metaphorical language he paints a picture of what the arrival of the Prince

of Peace will mean for broken humanity living in a broken world: the Messiah will reveal God to the world, reversing the consequences of the fall, reconciling sinful humanity to God and putting all things right.

From Isaiah's vantage point, with all of these events still in the future, it seemed as though all this would happen all at once. We who live on the other side of the birth of Jesus know that this was not God's design. Instead of transforming all of human existence into the Kingdom of God all at once, Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom during His first coming, and will consummate the Kingdom only when He returns at the close of the age.

This has us living today in a time that has been familiarly described as "the already but not yet." We see all around us glimpses and foretastes of the Kingdom of God, but we cannot point to any part of our world and declare it fully redeemed, or any one of God's promises and declare it completely fulfilled. Jesus is God keeping His promises, but every promise of God is only partially fulfilled now, and will only find its complete fulfillment upon His return, when He closes out the age and establishes the new heaven and the new earth.

So much already given; so much yet to be given. That means our experience as believers is one of grace and gratitude on the one hand, and longing and lament on the other. Our privilege and challenge as the people of God living between the two visits of Jesus is to experience as fully as possible what portion of His promised revelation, rescue, reversal, and reconciliation is available today and to be grateful for the redemptive work that we've been blessed to experience, and to hope and trust in its glorious fulfillment in That Day.

Through the prophets God strengthens his people with a message of hope. The Messiah will come – come to do nothing less than reverse the curse: bringing light into darkness, turning the desert into a garden, allowing the wolf to lie down with the lamb.

Tangibly speaking, that great reversal will mean Jesus reverses our relationship with God (redemption and rescue), our relationship with our circumstances (restoration into wholeness), and our relationships within our society (righteousness and justice/making things right).

November 28 The King Will Come and Reverse the Curse David
First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 9.6-7

The Promise:

The King - Isaiah 9.6-7

Reversing the Curse - Isaiah 9.1-2, 35.1-6, 11.6-9

The Partial Fulfillment of our Hope (First Coming):

The King - Matthew 4.17, John 18.36-37, Luke 23.42-43

Reversing the Curse - John 8.12, 7.37-39, 4.10-14; Matthew 5.14-16,
John 15.1-5

The Complete Fulfillment of our Hope (Second Coming):

The King - Revelation 11.15, 19.11-16; 22.3
Reversing the Curse - Revelation 21.5, 22.1-5

December 5 The Hope of Reconciliation with God Brently
Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 53.2-12

The Promise: Isaiah 53.2-12 (also 42.2-3)

The Partial Fulfillment of our Hope (First Coming): Mark 10.45, John 10.11, John 19.30

The Complete Fulfillment of our Hope (Second Coming): Revelation 21.1-3

December 12 The Hope of Restoration to Wholeness Rob
Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61.1-3

The Promise: Isaiah 61.1-3 (also 35.5-6)

The Partial Fulfillment of our Hope (First Coming): Mark 1.21-34, Matthew 11.1-6

The Complete Fulfillment of our Hope (Second Coming): II Corinthians 5.1-5, Revelation 21.5

December 19 The Hope of Righteousness in Society David
Fourth Sunday of Advent Isaiah 42.3-4

The Promise: Isaiah 42.3-4 (also 9.6, 11.3-5, 35.4)

The Partial Fulfillment of our Hope (First Coming):

Matthew 5.17-20 and 6.1, Matthew 26.51-52; Matthew 13.24-30 and 36-43

The Complete Fulfillment of our Hope (Second Coming): Revelation 19.11-16, 20.10-15, 21.5

December 24 The Birth of Hope David
Christmas Eve Isaiah 35.3-4

The Promise: Isaiah 35.3-4 (also 9.1-2)

The Partial Fulfillment of our Hope (First Coming): Luke 2.13-14, Matthew 11.28-30

The Complete Fulfillment of our Hope (Second Coming): Revelation 21.4

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December 26 Topic? TBD
Tweener Sunday

The Messianic passages in Isaiah

God promises . . .

To be with us

Isaiah 7.14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

To make right all that is wrong

Isaiah 35.1-6

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

To establish justice on earth and bring light to the Gentiles

Isaiah 42.1-7

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

³ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

⁵ This is what God the LORD says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
⁷ to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

To establish a new Kingdom and reign in our midst as King Isaiah 9.2-7

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

To offer his life in exchange for ours, securing our peace through his suffering Isaiah 53.2-12

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

¹² For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

To usher in lasting peace Isaiah 11.1-9

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.
⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

To set the captives free and bind up the brokenhearted Isaiah 61.1-3

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.