



Word Notes: Sunday 25/11/18

Clare Reed: Back to the Future #2

We're looking at 3 prophecies brought by Isaiah this week. Read the summary and discuss the questions in **blue text**

The first prophecy we will look at was brought when God's Kingdom was already split in two: Israel in the North, and Judah in the South. The nation of Assyria was becoming a superpower and a threat to the nations around them. Israel formed an alliance with Syria to fight back against Assyria, but Judah refused to join them. Some years later, the Israel-Syria alliance turned against Judah. Isaiah assured the King of Judah that this alliance would be wiped out within 65 years, but the King of Judah was afraid and turned to Assyria in the hope of securing their protection. This did not work out well. Seeking favour with Assyria led to an increasingly strong influence in Judah, even to the extent of worshipping Assyrian gods in their temple! Before long, Assyria had taken over Israel and was closing in on Judah. This political threat was coupled with the economic pressure of refugees fleeing from Israel.

This is when Isaiah brings a prophecy about the Messiah: Read Isaiah 11:1-3

- **What fears do you think motivate political leaders today?**
- **How would our world be different if our leaders were motivated by a fear of the Lord?**

At Jesus' baptism we read of the Spirit lighting on him like a dove, just as Isaiah prophesied. After his baptism Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he resists some pretty persistent temptation from the devil. Then he returns to Galilee.

Read Luke 4:14-21.

The passage Jesus reads comes from Isaiah 61. Turn to it and read it.

- **Why do you think Jesus chose to make this declaration in the synagogue?**
- **As Christians, we are Christ's representatives on Earth, and we now carry his calling in us. Are there any parts of this prophecy which you feel particularly called to?**
- **Is anyone in the group able to share a specific prophecy which has been spoken over them?**

Read Isaiah 9:1. Galilee was not a highly regarded area, and yet this is where Jesus ministered, just as Isaiah prophesied.

- **Where are you called to minister?**

Finish your meeting by praying over the prophecies/callings on those in your group. Declare that they will be fulfilled in our hearing!