

## KINGDOM COME

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Isaiah 40:1-11

December 6, 2015

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God..."

**-Isaiah 40:3**

### I. JOHN THE BAPTIZER - A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

- John was a forerunner of Messiah in the first advent. Isaiah's prophecy finds its partial fulfillment in Jesus' first advent and the ministry of John (Matt. 3:1-6; John 1:23).
- All was made ready for Messiah's arrival, and God's glory was fully revealed in his Son (vss. 4-5; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:7-10; Heb. 1:1-4).

### II. DUST IN THE WIND

- The "voice" would have us know three things: The LORD is coming, humans are mortal, and God's word is eternal (vss. 3-8; Gen. 3:6; Isa. 40:23-24; Ps. 119:89; Luke 21:33).
- We desperately need to know our place in this world. We are not eternal in and of ourselves; only in Christ are we immortal (Ps. 8:3-4; Rom. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:53; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Tim. 6:15-16).

### III. GOD IS GREAT - AND HE IS RETURNING

- Isaiah 40:9-11 prepared its hearers for both the first and second advent of Messiah (Isa. 62:11; Rev. 22:12).

### IV. THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

- God is merciful to his people. When the chastisement is over, there is a time for tenderness. Might this be a model for Christian parents?
- The people of Israel, in spite of their sin and rebellion, remained God's people. So it is with God's people today (vss. 1-2, 11; Jer. 3:12, 31:34; 2 Cor. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 John 1:9).

**KNOW:** John's call was a call to repentance and preparation. We do well to continue to obey that call today, making a way for Christ in our hearts now, and being prepared for his return on that day.

**DO:** Make way for Christ in your life.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The All Sufficient God of Isaiah 40*, by Martin Lloyd Jones  
*Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, by John Bunyan

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please read Isaiah 40:1-11

1. We spoke Sunday about a "partial fulfillment" of Isaiah 40:1-11 in the ministry of Jesus and John the Baptist. What do we mean by "partial fulfillments" of prophecy? Can you think of other O.T. prophecies that were fulfilled in more than one way?
2. "All flesh is like grass." How does that make you feel? How should we live in light of this great and undeniable truth?
3. The Old Testament gets a bit of a bad rap for being all about the wrath of God. How does a text like ours today speak about God? How is he portrayed in his own words?
4. Vs. 10 tells us that the LORD God comes with might. In light of Jesus' Incarnation, does this apply to Jesus' first advent, or more to his second? What about vs. 11 - more to Jesus' first advent, or his second, or both?
5. In what ways has God been a comforting God to you?
6. What steps will you take to make way for Christ in your own heart this advent season?