

ONLY A
HOLY GOD
*'Come, all you
who are thirsty'*
(Isaiah 55:1)

ISAIAH 40-66

sermon notes and study questions

St Mark's
 **Malabar**



Good news of comfort – Isaiah 40:1-11

SERMON NOTES

1. What comforts you?

2. Read Isaiah 40:1-2. Contrast this passage to Isaiah 3:1-8. How does the LORD's tone change?

3. What has changed to bring about a different message?

4. How does paid sin change a person's relationship with the LORD?

5. Read Isaiah 40:3-5. What is promised?

6. What would this mean to people living in exile?

7. Read Mark 1:1-4. In what ways is this a surprising fulfilment?

8. How does Isaiah 40 impact our expectations in regard to the arrival of Jesus?

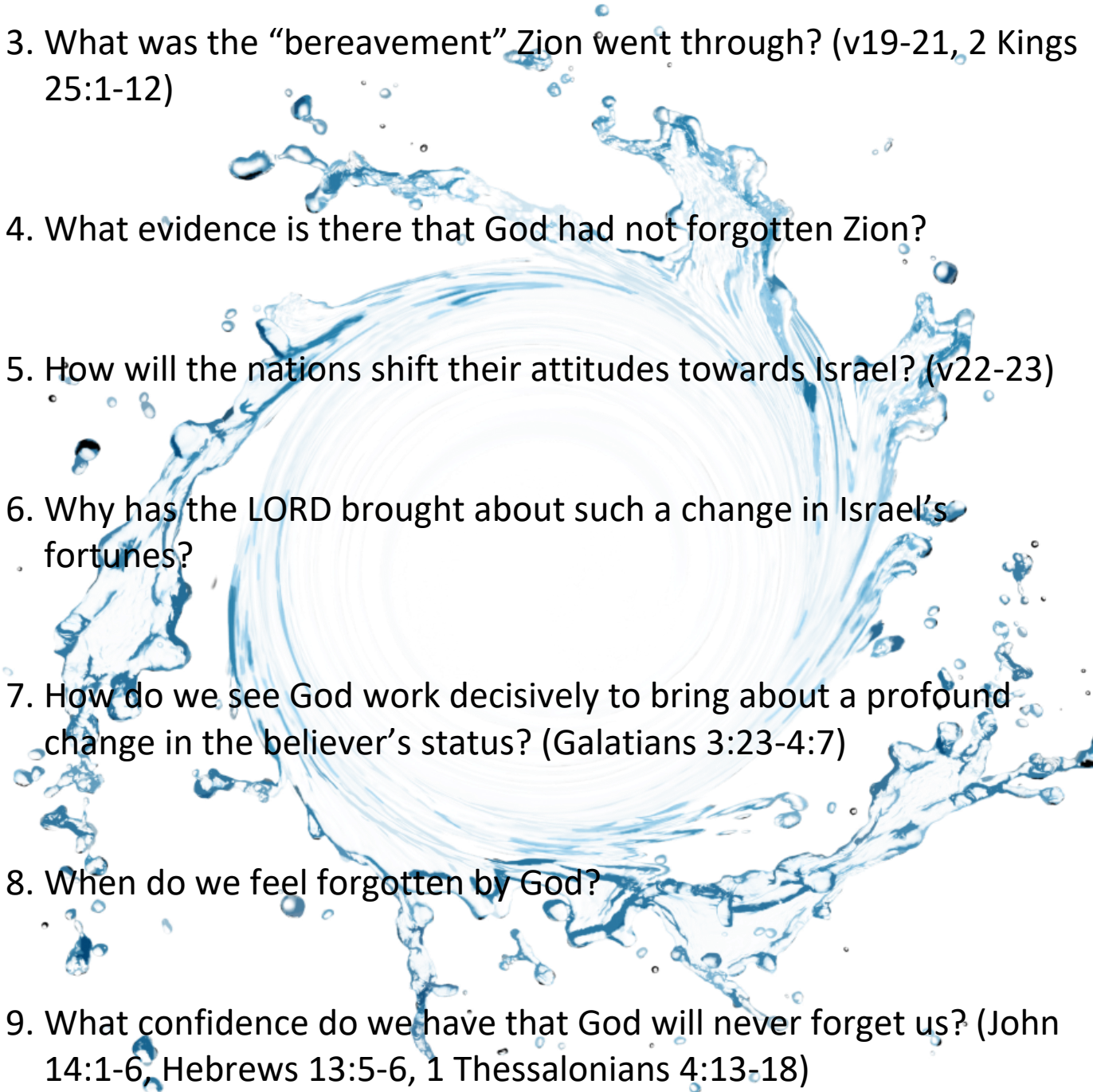
9. Is it possible to have salvation without judgment? Why/why not?

10. How can God's message bring you comfort in times of trouble?



Unfailing love – Isaiah 49:13-23

SERMON NOTES

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1. Describe a mother's feeling of love for her child?
 2. Why did Zion feel forsaken and forgotten by the LORD? (v14)
 3. What was the "bereavement" Zion went through? (v19-21, 2 Kings 25:1-12)
 4. What evidence is there that God had not forgotten Zion?
 5. How will the nations shift their attitudes towards Israel? (v22-23)
 6. Why has the LORD brought about such a change in Israel's fortunes?
 7. How do we see God work decisively to bring about a profound change in the believer's status? (Galatians 3:23-4:7)
 8. When do we feel forgotten by God?
 9. What confidence do we have that God will never forget us? (John 14:1-6, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 10. What does it look like to hope in the LORD? (Isaiah 49:23)



The LORD's shepherd – Isaiah 42:1-9

SERMON NOTES

Read Isaiah 42:1–4

1. What does the imagery in **v2–4a** show about the Servant's character?
2. What is the Servant's goal?
3. What comes to mind when you think of someone 'bringing justice'?

Read Isaiah 42:5–9

4. What do these verses help us understand about the relationship between the LORD & the Servant?

5. In v6 we read of the servant's mission to "the people" and "the Gentiles" (NIV). How does **v7** shape our thinking about:-

- a. ourselves (esp. before trusting in Jesus)?
- b. other people we interact with daily?
- c. people in other nations where there are *no* Christians?

6. How do the following New Testament verses interpret Isaiah 42:

- a. Luke 2:25-32
- b. Luke 3:21-22
- c. Acts 13:46-48

7. How can we (as individuals, a growth group, and church) be more involved in the Servant's mission to the nations?



Man of Sorrows – Isaiah 52:13-53:12

S E R M O N N O T E S

1. Have you ever been misunderstood?

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

2. How is the appearance of the LORD's servant described?

3. Why did humanity despise the LORD's servant?

4. What did they do to him?

5. Did he deserve to be treated the way he did? (v9)

6. What is the true explanation for his suffering?

7. What did his suffering accomplish?

8. How did Jesus fulfil the person and role of the Servant? (Mark 10:45)

9. What does it look like to have the "peace" and "healing" that Jesus brings? (Isaiah 53:5, Luke 5:27-32, Romans 5:1-2)

10. What are the implications that Jesus has been "raised and lifted up and highly exalted"? (Isaiah 52:13, Acts 2:32-36)



The Great Banquet – Isaiah 55:1-13

SERMON NOTES

1. What impact does discipline play in our society? Should penal systems be penitentiary or reformatory?

Read Isaiah 55:1-5

2. What would these invitations mean to people who are parched?
3. What are the main commands? What motivation do the readers have to obey them?
4. As people return to the LORD, what will follow?

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16

5. What is the significance of this promise to 6th BC Judah?

Read John 7:37-39

6. How would Jesus' invitation relate to the Festival of the Tabernacle (feel free to Google)? Hint: The Feast of Tabernacles occurs at the beginning of the winter rainy season.
7. How has Jesus quenched your thirst in a spiritual way?

Read Isaiah 55:6-13

8. What reception can wicked people expect when they return to the LORD? In what ways is this unexpected?
9. What is the purpose of God's word? (vs 10-11)
10. What are the world needs that Jesus can satisfy?



The year of the LORD's favour— Isaiah 61:1-11

SERMON NOTES

1. Have you ever received Good News? Perhaps you received a promotion, a good prognosis, or passed a course. How did it make you feel?

Read Isaiah 61:1-3

2. What would this mean for the Israelite community in exile?

Read Leviticus 25:8-13

3. Why is this important background to Isaiah 61?

4. What are the principles of the Year of Jubilee?

Read Luke 4:16-22

5. How does Jesus fulfill this scripture?

6. What does it mean for the poor, prisoners, blind and oppressed?

7. What stood in the way of the synagogue receiving the Lord's favour?

8. Do you feel the Lord's favour is upon you? Why/why not?

9. How should our lives reflect people who 'wear a crown of beauty'?



To the ends of the earth – Isaiah 66:17-24

SERMON NOTES

1. What is your plan or dream for the next 5 to 10 years of your life?

Read Isaiah 66:17-24

2. How is God's plan summarised in verse 18?

3. What is the sign referring to? (Compare Isaiah 7:14 with 66:7-8)

4. What key role will the survivors play in God's plan of salvation?

5. How do we see that plan unfold in Acts 1:1-8?

6. Where is God's plan heading? (Isaiah 66:22-24)

7. How does the final verse in Isaiah challenge us? (Mark 9:43, 47-48)

8. How does this passage make us re-evaluate our priorities (plans and dreams)?

9. What will it look like for us to align our plans with God's plans?

10. What implications will it have on our time, energy and money to achieve that alignment?

The Book of Isaiah

ISAIAH 1-35 (ministry of judgment)

ISAIAH 36 - 39

ISAIAH 40 – 66 (ministry of comfort)



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