

Advent Vision

Advent is about vision

First Sunday of Advent: Vision of
Jesus' return

2nd Sunday: John the Baptist

△ Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path
straight

Warning

Every Valley shall be filled, every mountain
made low

the crooked made straight, rough ways made
smooth

Everyone shall see God's salvation

Vision

A prophecy –but also a vision

Of what God will do

3rd Sunday

This Sunday

John the Baptist again

But now it is how people respond to the Vision

Vision or Prophecy

Prophecy

Is not foretelling

It is God speaking

Often as a warning

Or also as a vision

Conditional

Both depend on a response

Jonah and Nineveh

God warned in a prophecy

Nineveh listened and repented

God did not act

God's vision of people is positive

but conditional

God's warnings are negative

but also conditional

Often Vision and Warning (Positive & Negative) come together in a Biblical Prophecy

Isaiah's Prophecy & Vision

△ Isa 12

Individuals will say

△ Isa 12:1 you(s)

God has comforted me

I will trust God

He is my Salvation

Communities will say

△ Isa 12:4 you(p)

Give thanks to God

Make known what God has done

Sing praises to God

And in the transition from individual salvation to community salvation

△ Isa 12:3 you(p)

With joy (p) will draw water from the well of salvation

The saving of individuals brings communities together and saves them too.

The Bible links individuals and community wellbeing very closely

But what was the warning?

Isa 3

Isa 4:8-14

unfruitful harvests

Israel will go into exile

Hell has increased its appetite (14)

And the condition?

Isa 1:16-17

Wash yourselves clean –remove evil from your actions

learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan, plead for the widow

John the Baptist also calls people to respond

△ Three parts

Part 1: Uncomfortable Truths

△ Luke 3:7-9

Truth 1: Who they are

Nest of snakes!

Who warned you?

Truth 2: Bear fruit of your repentance

Truth 3: Who you are does not save us

Truth 4: God does not need you

He can create children of Abraham out of stones

Truth 5: Only those who bear fruit will be saved

The axe is lying at the base of the trees

Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down

Part 2: What is the fruit?

△ Luke 3:10-13: Teacher what should we do?

Crowds: share your surplus possession with those who do not have any

△ Two coats share with none

Tax Collectors: Do not benefit from people's vulnerability

They do not know how much to pay, and therefore they told them to pay more

Soldiers: Do not extort people because you have power over them

Soldiers have physical power over people and can threaten them by false accusations/threats

Progression

Voluntary helping

Do not abuse vulnerability

Do not abuse power

Result: a more just society

Similar to the vision of Isaiah

But it is not the full vision

Part 3: Are you the Messiah?

△ Luke 3:15-17

The crowd knows it is not the complete vision

They know more is needed in order to deliver a just society

Not only individuals need to change

But the whole society needs to change

And this needs someone like the Messiah

John

Messiah will come after me

I only baptise with water

I can only clean you once

Messiah

More powerful than John

△ John not worthy to tie Messiah's sandals

Baptises with Holy Spirit & Fire

Cleaning for life

Fire indicates the power that he bestows on his followers

Messiah's Judgement

He will also judge

He will separate the wheat from the chaf

△ Winnowing Fork

Wheat in Granary

Chaf in Fire

John the Baptist Prophecy:

Vision:

Coming of Messiah

Return of Just Society

Condition

Be ready for him

Life a just life yourself

Warning:

As otherwise you will miss the boat

Christmas Vision

Jesus is born as a baby in a stable

The Son of God

Becomes Human

He is the Messiah

Jesus means 'God Saves'

He will restore the world into a Just World

No more poverty

No more injustice

No one oppressed

Orphans and Widows looked after well

But he died on the Cross

Because Humanity did not accept him

Did not want to change the way that they lived

Did not want to

Give freely out of surplus

Stop profiting of people's vulnerabilities

Stop profiting of being powerful

So he had to die

Jesus teaching was totally opposite to how society is structured

And it still is

So he had to die

But Jesus rose again, ascended to Heaven, gave us his Spirit

You can't get rid of God that easily

He is still challenging us through his Holy Spirit

To live our lives according to his will

Not the will of society

He will return or you will go to him (Death)

Are you ready?

Have you repented and accepted Jesus in your lives?

Are you bearing fruit of you repentance?

Christmas Prophecy

Vision:

Jesus will return a second time

And with him a new heaven and a new earth

Condition:

Have we repented?

Not only saying sorry for what we have done wrong

But turning ourselves to Jesus continuously

And bearing fruit of our repentance

Making current society a better place

Warning:

Jesus will judge us

He will forgive when we go to him

For repentance and turning to him

But he will also hold us to account for what we have done after our repentance

Did we bear fruit of our repentance?

Or have we stuck with repenting and receiving his forgiveness?