



**LIFT UP YOUR HEADS: YOUR
REDEMPTION IS NEAR**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2015

LIVING EXPECTANTLY...

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory.

-Psalm 24:9

Jesus prophesied, “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

-Luke 21:28

THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECIES FROM ISAIAH...

- DAYS OF DOOM AND DREAMS OF HOPE.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

15 He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. 16 But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. 17 The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah-- he will bring the king of Assyria.

Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- -- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 8:7 ...therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the River--the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks & sweep on into Judah, swirling over it, passing through it and reaching up to the neck. Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, O Immanuel!

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

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 increase 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.

LOOKING AND LISTENING BEHIND THE HEADLINES 2015-2016

- DAYS OF TERROR AND DREAMS OF PEACE.

The God who guarantees our future and our hope:

- Isaiah 9:6 “Everlasting Father”: literally “FATHER OF FUTURE”

- Everlasting Covenant

Genesis 9:16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

Genesis 17:7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Isaiah 55:3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

- Everlasting Life

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

IMAGINE... WHO IS THIS GOD?

- At the burning bush... Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.

(Or, "I WILL BE, WHAT I WILL BE".)

This is what you are to say to the Israelites.

'I AM has sent me to you.'

- At the Bethlehem manger... Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."