

Discussion Questions

Prophesied...

- What struck you the most from these readings?
- Is it encouraging to know these were written before Jesus was born?
- Are these promises useful in sharing the good news of Jesus today?
- Can you think of other prophecies, not included here?
- Do these passages give you new or deeper insight into who Jesus is?
- And, can we trust God's promises to come true?

Born...

- Why do you think the Lord was born through Mary and Joseph?
- Why do you think the angels announced it to Shepherds?
- What does the Angels song tell us about Jesus?
- Can you find faith-building truths in Matthew's genealogy?
- How does Jesus' birth fulfil prophecies we read last week?
- And, can we trust God's promises to come true?

Saviour...

- Which of these readings have particularly spoken to you this week?
- How would you sum up the salvation offered by Jesus?
- How can we help people who don't believe move along the story from the Baby to the Cross, empty tomb and gift of the Holy Spirit?
- What are you particularly thankful for, in what Jesus has done?
- What confidence do we find in these words of Scripture?
- And, can we trust God's promises to come true?

Return...

- What can we confidently say about the future from these passages?
- How do we faithfully believe these without falling into the 'silly controversies' that Paul warns us about?
- How is eternity with Christ pictured?
- What are you most looking forward to about eternity with Jesus?
- How does this promised future inform the way we live and share the gospel today? And... we can trust God's promises to come true!

Advent Readings and Discussions

Inside there are suggested daily readings to take you from December 1st to Christmas Day. They are in 4 sections:

- prophecies before Jesus birth
- some of the events of Jesus' birth
- [some of] the many blessings of Jesus' gift of salvation
- and the promise of his return

I'd encourage you to take some time to pray and then read through each passage, listen to some worship music if you find that helpful and ask the Lord to speak from his Word by his Spirit into your heart. The daily readings are also available in a bookmark format which you might like to use in your Bible during these weeks. As with all Bible notes, don't worry if you miss one just pick up where you can!

If you're in a homegroup, you might like to use these for your meetings in December. The 4 sections won't perfectly line up with when you meet, but you should be able to discuss where you've got to using the questions.

I will also be running a group on the three Mondays leading up to Christmas, from 7.30pm in the Church Centre. This is open to anyone who is not currently in a home or small group. We will have a chance to read, discuss and pray together.

I hope and pray that we will all be thrilled again by the good news of the Messiah who came into the world, just as he promised. Who brings us the greatest gift of salvation and new life now, and the promise of being with him forever.

God bless,
Tom

Daily Readings through December

Your Thoughts and Notes

Jesus Prophesied

- Dec. 1: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Dec. 2: Isaiah 11:1-5
- Dec. 3: Isaiah 7:10-14
- Dec. 4: Micah 5:1-5
- Dec. 5: 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- Dec. 6: Luke 1:26-33
- Dec. 7: Luke 1:34-38

Jesus Born

- Dec. 8: Luke 1:46-55
- Dec. 9: Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 10: Luke 2:1-7
- Dec. 11: Luke 2:8-12
- Dec. 12: Luke 2:13-20
- Dec. 13: Matthew 1:1-17

Jesus is our Saviour

- Dec. 14: Romans 6:11-14
- Dec. 15: Galatians 5:13-18
- Dec. 16: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Dec. 17: Titus 3:3-8
- Dec. 18: Philippians 2:5-11
- Dec. 19: John 14:1-6

Jesus will come again

- Dec. 20: Daniel 7:13-14
- Dec. 21: Revelation 1:4-7
- Dec. 22: Revelation 3:20-22
- Dec. 23: Revelation 21:22-27
- Dec. 24: Revelation 2:1-5
- Dec. 25: Revelation 22:6-7