



# The Journey Towards Christmas

The Hope of the Messiah

# God is at work in the silence



- The silent period - from Malachi, the last prophet, to the coming of Jesus were approximately 400 years.
- Preparations were happening –
  - A common language (Greek), A stable empire (Rome), Renewed Jewish messianic expectation, Synagogues spread across the Mediterranean world, The Word of God translated broadly (Septuagint)
  - The world was being made ready so that when Jesus came the message about him could be spread. History was being moved!
- When all seems silent in your situation God is working!

# God keeps his promises

- Isaiah 7:14 — “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
- Micah 5:2 — “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.”
- Isaiah 9:1–7 — “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- These promises were made hundreds of years before and each one was fulfilled in Jesus. God keeps his promise!



# Salvation is certain!



- Isaiah 53 – Often an Easter reading. Focussed on “The Suffering Servant”
- We all face suffering however we have a God who has experienced suffering and identifies with us.
- Suffering can lead somewhere, out of it God can bring redemption. Turn evil around for good!
- Hebrews 12:2 For the Joy set before Him he endured the cross and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God
- There was a cross but following the cross was the resurrection! There is always hope! Our salvation is certain!

# For reflection -

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If it seems God is silent – He is at work, perhaps preparing you or changing a situation.

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God keeps his promises – Hundreds of years passed from the prophecies about the Messiah but in God's time he made it happen. God will keep his word to you!

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Salvation will come! – It is given to us all through Jesus. Suffering will come but if we hold on out of the trials good will come!