

2nd Sunday of Advent – Promises referred to by the Prophets :-

Unfortunately the ‘Common Worship Lectionary’ for this year (Year C) uses readings which refer to John the Baptist for two weeks in succession. However, the words of Our Lord Jesus himself are important. *“And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself”*. (Gospel of Luke chapter 24. verse 27). So on this Second Sunday of Advent, when the second Advent candle is lit, we give thanks for and remember the words of the prophets of the Old Testament.

Remember that many of the prophecies saw a partial fulfilment with the birth and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. As an example read Isaiah chapter 60 through to the end of chapter 66. We see that the prophecy of the coming of the Kings / Wise Men (chapter 60 verse 3) is recorded in Matthew chapter 2. Their gifts of gold and frankincense is prophesied in Isaiah chapter 60, verse 6. However the rest of this chapter especially verses 19 – 22 has not yet been fulfilled! See Revelation chapter 21, verses 22 – 26.

Isaiah chapter 61, verse 1 to the first part of verse 2 are familiar words used by the Lord Jesus at the beginning of His ministry see Luke chapter 4, verses 18 – 21. Note that He stopped reading in the middle of a sentence! - *“the day of vengeance of our God;”* is still to come.

During this second full week of Advent maybe it is valuable to study these final chapters of the Book of Isaiah and work out which prophecy has been fulfilled, which has been partially fulfilled and which is still to come!

The foundation of the new world order has been laid in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as a babe to Bethlehem. His ministry and teaching, passed on to his apostles and to his church, is building on that foundation (see 1 Corinthians 3, verses 11 - 15). At this present time with all its uncertainty and vain political promises we, as Christian believers, continue to look for and pray for the coming of the Kingdom of Righteousness. Looking for that time when *“death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”* (Revelation 21 verse 4).

“He who testifies to these things says ‘surely I am coming soon’. Amen, come Lord Jesus!”
Revelation chapter 22, verse 20.

*Hills of the north, rejoice;
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing;
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgment brings and victory.*

Charles Edward Oakley (1832 – 1865)