

New Hampton Community Church

Message Notes ~ Sunday November 30, 2025

"Promised Hope"

"Christmas: the Whole Story" Week 1

Isaiah 9:2, 6

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness...

For a child is born <u>to us,</u>
a son is given <u>to us.</u>

The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In darkness or uncertainty, ___

Malachi 4:5-6

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will <u>turn the hearts of the fathers to their children</u>, and the <u>hearts of the children to their fathers</u>; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

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Luke 1:5-15a, 57-60

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

57-60 "When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

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Questions to Ponder

- 1. In what ways does waiting on God strengthen our faith and reliance on Him?
- 2. What can you do and how can you discern what God is preparing in your life, even when it feels like nothing is happening?
- 3. How can you actively participate in God's work of "turning hearts" in our families, friendships, or communities this Christmas season?