

Title: EARLY GOOD NEWS, ISAIAH 61:1 – 11
(Chatham, NJ; 12/17/17, AM) [Pt – Then/Now Outline]

Theme: More good news from Isaiah dilutes the modern doomsday predictions.

Purpose: To demonstrate that Isaiah preached good news and that Jesus fulfilled his predictions by his newer good news.

Introduction:

1. More doomsday predictions have bitten the dust: #9, 11, 16, 18 (it wasn't much longer and we were being warned about global warming, and now they can't call it that so it is the innocuous "climate change.")
2. We should care about the planet, but we should not fall prey to overstated doomsday predictions.
3. Once again we turn to the prophet Isaiah.
4. He preached good news, and when Jesus came he fulfilled it.

Good News, 1 – 2

- A. Then: The Spirit of the Lord
 1. Good news to the poor
 2. The Spirit's message contains all the following:
 3. Healing the broken-hearted
 4. Liberty to the captives
 5. Recovering of sight for the blind
 6. The year of the Lord's favor
 7. Day of vengeance: justice against adversaries
 8. Comfort for those who mourn
 9. Renewal of a broken spirit, 3
- B. Now: Jesus' proclamation, Luke 4:21
 1. This scripture is fulfilled in your hearing
 2. His audience at that time didn't fully grasp it
 3. Many today still don't
 4. Fast forward to the proclamation on Pentecost: the message is freedom from sin and guilt
 5. To bring healing, liberty, and sight is first to break the chains of sin

Weightier Matters, 8

- A. Then: What God Cares About
 1. The Lord loves justice
 2. He hates robbery and wrong
 3. He pays back according to their deeds
 4. An everlasting covenant – God keeps his promises
- B. Now: What Jesus Cares About
 1. Cleansing the temple: prayer and communion with God as opposed to religious mercantilism
 2. The weightier matters neglected by scribes and Pharisees, Mt. 23:23-24
 3. Jesus' birth reminds us of God's initiative in all these things, 1 John 4:9-10
 4. People will know us by how much we love one another, John 13:35

Prophets with a Plan, 10 – 11

- A. Then: garments of salvation
 1. The prophets warn and condemn but always with a way out

2. As here in Isaiah, there is always redemption and righteousness from God
3. Joel 2:12-17 provides Israel with the opportunity to return to God
4. Jonah's story hinges in the notion that God relents from sending disaster
5. Ezekiel tells Israel that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
6. God devises the means of reconciliation, 2 Samuel 14:14

B. Now: Gospel of reconciliation

1. Peter preaches this, Acts 3:17-26
2. Reconciliation drives everything in the New Testament, Col. 1:19-22

Conclusions:

1. Peace between us and God is what the angels proclaimed to the shepherds.
2. Are you moved by the joy of the season?
3. Get to the source of that joy: God gave his son, John 3:16.
4. Renew your faith in Him this year.
5. Begin your life of faith this year: believe, repent, be baptized for the remission of your sins and live faithfully to His commands.