



The Words Of The Prophets - Week 3

Your Dreams Are Too Small

Isaiah 65:17-25

The One Who Makes All Things New Doesn't Settle For Small Dreams

In the weeks leading up to Advent we're going to be listening to the voices of the Old Testament prophets...

Biblical prophets aren't predictors of the future, they hope to shape it.

Prophetic imagination - helps us see beyond our own reality

Today we're going to be hearing from a prophet who saw everything fall apart but never gave up on the big dreams God had given him.

If you could remake the world—what would it look like?

Images from a “perfect” world

Think about a word or a phrase that would describe your perfect world

What would it take to make those dreams a reality? Too much?

THE ONE WHO MAKES ALL THINGS NEW DOESN'T SETTLE FOR SMALL DREAMS

Isaiah 65:17-25

What do we know about the context... 3rd or 4th Isaiah

- *The Remnant—people who had been left behind experience hardship.*
- *Children dying of malnutrition, labor exploited, a land without empathy*
- *There is a need to speak and to be heard—cries of distress are answered*
- *This dream that God gives to God's people is too big to imagine*
- *God will “bara” create—the same word used in Genesis at the beginning*
- *How do we bridge the great gulfs between us—we dream big dreams*

We can't be afraid to dream bigger than we've ever dreamed before about what it takes to see God's kingdom here on earth, and we also can't be afraid to trust God to help us make them a reality.

Making Our Too-Big Dreams Of A New World A Reality

- *Empathy—the ability to see one another more wholly*
- *Courage—letting go of fear, which leads us to smallness*
- *Discernment—using wisdom to distinguish truth from falsehood*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

The Prophetic Imagination

Walter Brueggeman

The Prophets

Abraham J. Heschel

Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, et. al

Ellen F. Davis

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