"I SEE YOU, I HEAR YOU, I'M COMING"

Understand and trust in the lovingkindness of the Lord.

KEY POINTS

- This is the season of Advent, when we especially think about the God of heaven coming to be with us, here on earth, in a human body like ours.
- God has a clear message for each one of us, a message He has been communicating through experience after experience, in life after life, century after century: "I see you. I hear you. I'm coming."
- Genesis 16 tells of Hagar, the servant of Sarai, Abram's wife. Hagar was in a desperate situation: pregnant, terrified and alone in the middle of a desert.
- That's when God came to her.
- He gave her a well of water for sustenance that day and a promise for all of her tomorrows and the tomorrows of all her descendants—a promise that persists even today.
- From this experience she created and claimed a new name for God: "The One Who Lives and Sees Me".
- The people of Israel were in a desperate situation after years of bondage, hard labour and intense psychological torture. Imagine seeing all your male babies killed; your daughters vulnerable to the will of taskmasters who could physically and sexually mistreat them.
- But God was not distant or unaware. His message to Israel was the same as it was to Hagar (herself a slave from Egypt): "I see you. I hear you. I'm coming."
- In His promise of a Messiah, God repeats this message, this theme He has given us to hold on to through every age of humanity: When we sit in darkness He sees us. When we are afflicted He feels it. When we groan He hears. And He promises that whatever the situation we are not alone or abandoned or out of hope.
  "I see you. I hear you. I'm coming."
- God spoke this message to the world again in Isaiah 9. He promised that gloom will not descend forever on her who is distressed. He won't leave her there. If this is you, you have a promise from God and He will fulfill it.
- The people who walk in darkness are going see a great light. Even if you are in the very shadow of death, the light will shine on you.
- Every year as we come back to the Christmas season we ponder God's promise. He came to us. He has come to each of us personally. He still comes to us. He will come to us.
- And ultimately, physically, visibly, presently, God will come to this whole world. He will come again.
- Unto us a Child is born…. The governing of your life, the governing of this world, will be on His shoulders.
- The increase of His rulership, the increase of His presence, the increase of the peace and of the power He brings will keep growing without end, forever.
- God has given us beautiful brains. They are marvels of biology and chemistry and electronics and spirit. Our powers of observation and logic are great.

KEY SCRIPTURES:
Genesis 16:6-14; Exodus 1:8-14, 22; 2:22-25; Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

- However, they are limited to what our senses perceive as being "real".
- But there is another reality beyond the physical realm, beyond time, and beyond our limited logic. Yet it is in fact extremely, eternally, logical, based on the truth and power of God.
- Isaiah 9:7 tells us how this big change in our life will happen and why we can believe it: "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."
- The New Living Translation puts it this way: "The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"
- Nothing can stand in the way or prevent the passionate commitment of the Lord from being accomplished. But He has given us a choice: will we allow His will to be the ruling force in our individual lives now?
- Do you insist on living life your way, even if the cracks are showing? Or do you want to reach out for an increase of His presence and His government and His peace in your life?
- Wherever you're at right now, whatever is going on in your life, God says, "I see you. I hear you. I'm coming".
- If you identify with Hagar's experience, you can come and drink from the well that God has provided for you, in the middle of a desert.
- If you identify with the nation of Israel, crying out to the God they had almost forgotten, then talk to Him today with your voice, with your heart. He sees you. He hears you. He's coming.
- Let Him come to you.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In what ways does God see us, hear us, or come to us?
2. Reflect on (a) situation(s) in your life where you are certain that God saw, heard and came to you. Share something that you learned about God out of that/those experience(s).
3. Does God see, hear, and come to all humanity? Explain. If so, is all of humanity aware of His presence? Why or why not?
4. Reflect on the Christmas season. Why is it such a significant time of year to so many?

Prayer Time

Lord, You see me. You hear me. You know me. Help me to be aware of and respond to You. Help me to see, hear and know You more and more.

L.G. ice-Breaker: In your family/household, whose voice is most distinguishable? How else do you identify people you know without seeing them?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

 (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS