

Reflections for 28th November 2021

Advent Sunday

A Sign of Hope

Our Old Testament reading from Jeremiah is a message of hope to encourage the people of God when they are living in hard times. And it reminded me of a story from the previous chapter, about an event in Jeremiah's life.

He was offered the chance to buy a field from a relative – a normal thing to happen in those days, but in this case there was a catch. The land in question was about to become a battlefield, because, as Jeremiah himself had predicted, the armies of Babylon were about to come that way to attack Jerusalem. So who would want to buy that field, at that time?

But Jeremiah was called by God to buy the field, as a sign of hope, amidst all the troubles that the people faced, a sign of the promise that one day it will be worth having, when the life of the nation and people would be restored. So Jeremiah bought the field, before witnesses, and saw that the sale was properly documented and recorded, and, as he acted out this sign of hope, he spoke of God's promise to his people, that one day;

houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land (Jeremiah 32. 15)

Advent is the season of hope, as we prepare for our celebration of Christmas, and at the same time prepare ourselves for God's coming anew into our lives and our world, today or on any day.

Jeremiah bought a piece of land in the middle of a battlefield, as a strange but powerful sign of hope in hard times, and Jeremiah spoke the word of God – that God will fulfil his 'good promise' and act to save and restore his people.

Revd John Waller

Sovereign Lord,
you called our ancestors to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call
and stand ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
for you are our light and our salvation. Amen.

Bible readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36

Story: 'Double Your Money' (based on Matthew chapter 25)