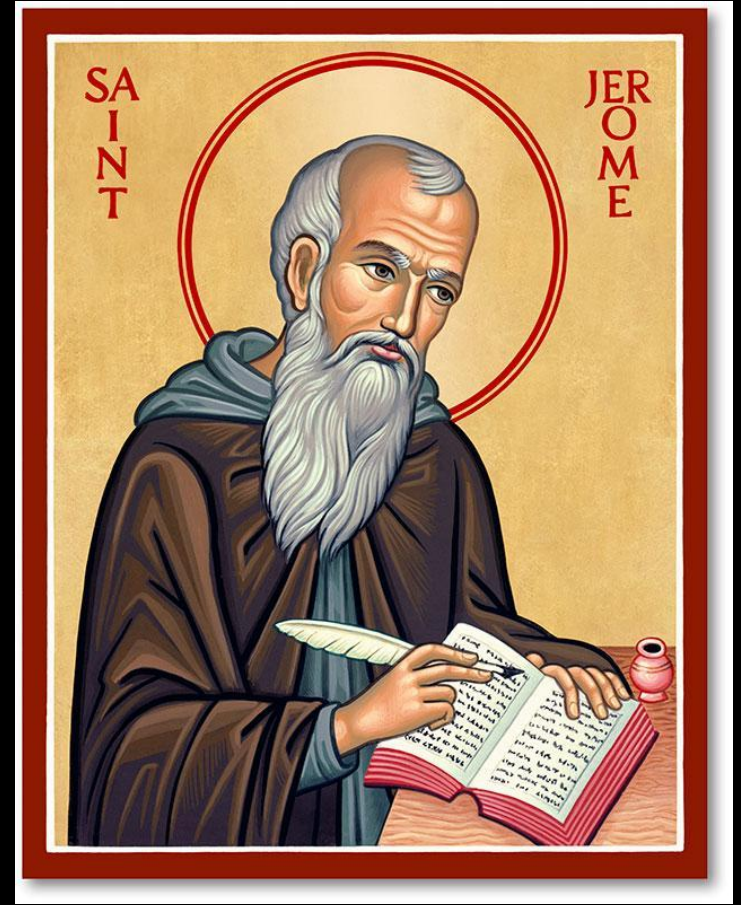




**ISAIAH**



Isaiah “was more of an Evangelist than a Prophet, because he described all of the Mysteries of the Church of Christ so vividly that you would assume he was not prophesying about the future, but rather was composing a history of past events.



## Three different aspects to prophecy:

The “pointing arrow, predictive” element to prophecy (Isaiah 53)

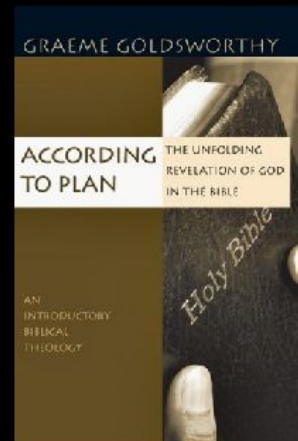
The “typological” element to prophecy (Jonah 1-4, Daniel 6)

The “fading shadow” element to prophecy (Isaiah 43):  
the prophets anticipate the future in light of God’s saving activity in the past, and spiritualize it.

## The fading shadow element to prophecy

The prophets' ministry serves as a way to show Israel (and the reader) that the types and shadows of the Old Testament are not the realities. The realities have much more to do with spiritual renewal, on more cosmic levels, and are yet to come through the work of a suffering servant.

*Graeme Goldsworthy, According to Plan, 182*



# The fading shadow element to prophecy

<b>OT history</b>	<b>Prophets' message</b>	<b>NT fulfillment</b>
Creation	A new creation is coming	Jesus
Exodus	A new exodus is coming	Jesus
Law/Temple	A new law and temple is coming	Jesus
David	A new David is coming	Jesus
Return to the land	A new return is coming	Jesus

**Today's Sermon: "Prepare the Way"**  
**Passage: Isaiah 40:1-8 & Mark 1:1-15**

# 1. Setting the Scene



# Mark 1:2-3

<sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” –  
<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’ ”

- 1. Setting the Scene**
- 2. First Flashback**

## Exodus 23:20-22

<sup>20</sup> “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. <sup>21</sup> Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. <sup>22</sup> If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

- 1. Setting the Scene**
- 2. First Flashback**
- 3. Second Flashback**

## Isaiah 40:3-8

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

## Isaiah 40:3-8

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”

# Isaiah 40:9

<sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

- 1. Setting the Scene**
- 2. First Flashback**
- 3. Second Flashback**
- 4. Third Flashback**



## Malachi 3:1-3

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.<sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

- 1. Setting the Scene**
- 2. First Flashback**
- 3. Second Flashback**
- 4. Third Flashback**
- 5. Who is the Messenger?**

# Mark 1:1-15

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —

<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’ ”

## Mark 1:1-15

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- 1. Setting the Scene**
- 2. First Flashback**
- 3. Second Flashback**
- 4. Third Flashback**
- 5. Who is the Messenger?**
  - a. What was his message?**

“We are content to observe that all Jewish washing ceremonies had the same purpose. These rites marked the point at which one who was considered defiled and unacceptable by his coreligionists became acceptable. The act of washing involved recognizing one’s unclean status and then utilizing the divinely prescribed procedure for removing ceremonial pollution.”

# Jewish Backgrounds *of the*

## NEW TESTAMENT

J. JULIUS SCOTT Jr.

## Mark 1:1-15

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

# Mark 1:1-15

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”



**There is something about the one being  
prepared for who is both terrifying and  
comforting at the same time.**

# Isaiah 40:10-11

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.



*"Is he a man?" asked Lucy.  
"Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is King of the wood and the son of the great emperor-beyond-the-sea. Don't you know who is the King of the Beasts? Aslan is a lion – the Lion, the great lion."*



*“ooh!” said Susan, “I’d thought he was a man. Is he – quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”*

*“That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver; “if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.”*



*"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.  
"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "don't  
you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells  
you? Who said anything about  
safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But  
he's good. He's the King, I tell  
you."*

1. **Setting the Scene**
2. **First Flashback**
3. **Second Flashback**
4. **Third Flashback**
5. **Who is the Messenger?**
6. **Now it's our turn to share the good news**

## John 14:1-4

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”

## Acts 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



# Gospel Application

Jesus was the one who was prepared for.

Jesus is the one who prepares others for.

Jesus is the one who prepares a place for us.