

This is not a very comfortable time to be alive. With everything that is going on around us, it is hard to find peace. Yet we're in the season of Advent, and Advent means arrival, and we await for the King to come to fix all our ills.

We might wonder, what is this King like? What can we expect from Him? How is He going to fix my problems? Why is He going to fix my problems?

I base this sermon for you out of Isaiah 40. Isaiah 40:1–11 is all about a messenger spreading the good news of the King coming. In this fashion of a messenger, I have five words for you to cry out to you what this King is like.

What is the king like? Our first word is COMFORTING. 5. This King is COMFORTING. Verses 1 and 2: **“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”**

This Advent, we know that the focus of this King delivering comfort to His people. This is not the comfort of vague sentimentality. Like saying, “I hope you get better,” or wishing someone “Good luck.” When the King says comfort, comfort is granted.

If the president said, “I’m kind of thirsty.” All of a sudden one of his aides would be at his side with a glass of water. Think of how much more powerful the King of the Universe is. He said let there be light, and there was light. So too, He says Comfort, and He instills comfort in your life.

This comfort is achieved through bringing you peace. Your warfare is ended. This comfort is achieved through the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness won through Christ’s suffering on the cross, and death. This comfort is achieved through bringing you double for all your sins. Jesus Christ rose again on the third day, telling you that not only are your sins forgiven, but you have been given a generous inheritance of the righteousness of God. All the Kings riches are yours. This double portion is now yours.

All this comfort is yours because the King is indeed coming. What is this king like? Our second word is ALWAYS. 4. This King is ALWAYS. Verse 8: **“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”** The Lord our God says elsewhere: **“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you... are not consumed.”**

We can trust the King’s Word because He is ALWAYS the same. The same comfort He delivered to the hearers in Isaiah’s day He delivers to you. His Word ALWAYS remains the same.

“The word of our God will stand forever.” This phrase is summarized in a four-letter Latin acronym, VDMA. VDMA was a rally cry for some of the earliest Lutherans. VDMA was affixed onto the uniforms of the Lutheran soldiers who fought to defend this good news even laying down their lives.

The Good news in Isaiah's day is the same good news in the Reformation which is the same Good news today. Namely, that this King is coming and has come to Comfort you. This King has died to forgive you of all the mistakes you've made. This King has come to prepare a place for you in His Kingdom, even as He has prepared a place for little Elodie Jean who was baptized just earlier in the service.

This King and His message of hope never changes. We humans are but temporary, as passing as the grass or the flowers of the field. Buildings are built and destroyed. Civilizations come and go. But the promises the King gives you never change because the King ALWAYS remains the same.

What is this king like? Our third word is LORD. 3. This King is LORD. Verse 5: **“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”** The glory of the Lord is not just a vague notion like winning a battle or a tournament could be considered glorious.

In the Old Testament times, the Glory of the Lord could be seen, it was a way of denoting God's very presence. The Glory of the Lord covered the mountain where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Glory of the Lord filled the temple where the Israelites worshipped.

The people in Isaiah's day felt as though the Lord was distant. The Glory of the Lord had departed. Yet, Isaiah gives us a promise, that the King who is coming embodies this glory of the Lord.

This is the message of John the Baptist in our Gospel text, prepare the way of the Lord. This coming king is no other than Jesus Christ. The Glory of the Lord dwelt bodily in Him. Many saw Jesus in the days of His earthly ministry, and He promises to come back again wherein all humanity will see Him.

We can take comfort knowing that Jesus Christ is this God-King. He is the Lord Yahweh who created the Heavens and the Earth and about whom Isaiah preaches in our Old Testament text.

What is this king like? Our fourth word is MIGHTY. 2. This King is MIGHTY. Verse 10: **“Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”**

This week my friend shared the following phrase on Facebook: “Hope is hard work.” You know what, she's right! Hope *is* hard work, yet Advent is all about waiting. Waiting for the King to come, waiting for things to be made right.

Hope is hard work because things are way out of whack. Our own lives are out of whack. The world around us is out of whack. Hope is hard work when things are so broken, how could they possibly go back to where they belong?

Hope is hard work only if we were the ones tasked with putting Humpty Dumpty back together again. However, as Christians, hope isn't hard work because we have a Mighty King. Jesus Christ is this Mighty King who indeed is redeeming His creation.

Every time Isaiah mentions the arm of God, it is to describe how the Lord acts on behalf of His people to save them. Jesus has bared His arm for you by having His arms nailed to the tree. He has bared His arm for you as He rose again and showed His disciples His nail marked hands and feet. Jesus will bare His arm for you on the day when He comes back to set everything right.

Hope is hard work, but we have a King who can fulfill those hopes. He has the power and the will to make all things right again. That's a King that in whom we can hope!

What is this King like? Our final word is SHEPHERD. 1. This King is SHEPHERD. Verse 11: **“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”** This king not only has the power to defeat evil, He has the compassion to care for the most vulnerable.

We see this in Jesus, who is the God-king who had compassion on the sick, the hungry, and the poor. He cared for the least of these during His earthly ministry. At the same time, He is the mighty God who overturned tables in the temple, whose voice calmed the storms, and who will come again to judge both the living and the dead. What a wonderful Lord we have!

Jesus is your Good Shepherd. He cares for you. You like a sheep have gone astray, but He has gathered you and gently leads you. He knows your weaknesses, and still cares for you. He forgives all your sins. He loves you perfectly and will guide you home to be with Him in Heaven.

This Advent, the King is coming. What is this king like? Let's see if you remembered our five words. First, comforting. He comforts you in all your worries and He gives you His righteousness. Second, always. This King always is the same. He never changes. You can trust His Word and promise. Third, Lord. This King is the Lord. Jesus is this King and we believe and teach that He is God in the flesh. Fourth, Mighty. Jesus the King is mighty and has the power to save us from even the worst situation. Fifth, Shepherd. Jesus the King is also our Shepherd, who has the power to save, but the compassion and gentleness to interact with us in a loving way. Comforting, Always, Lord, Mighty, Shepherd. What do the first letters of each word spell? CALMS. Remember the acronym CALMS. THIS ADVENT, THE KING *CALMS* HIS PEOPLE. Amen!