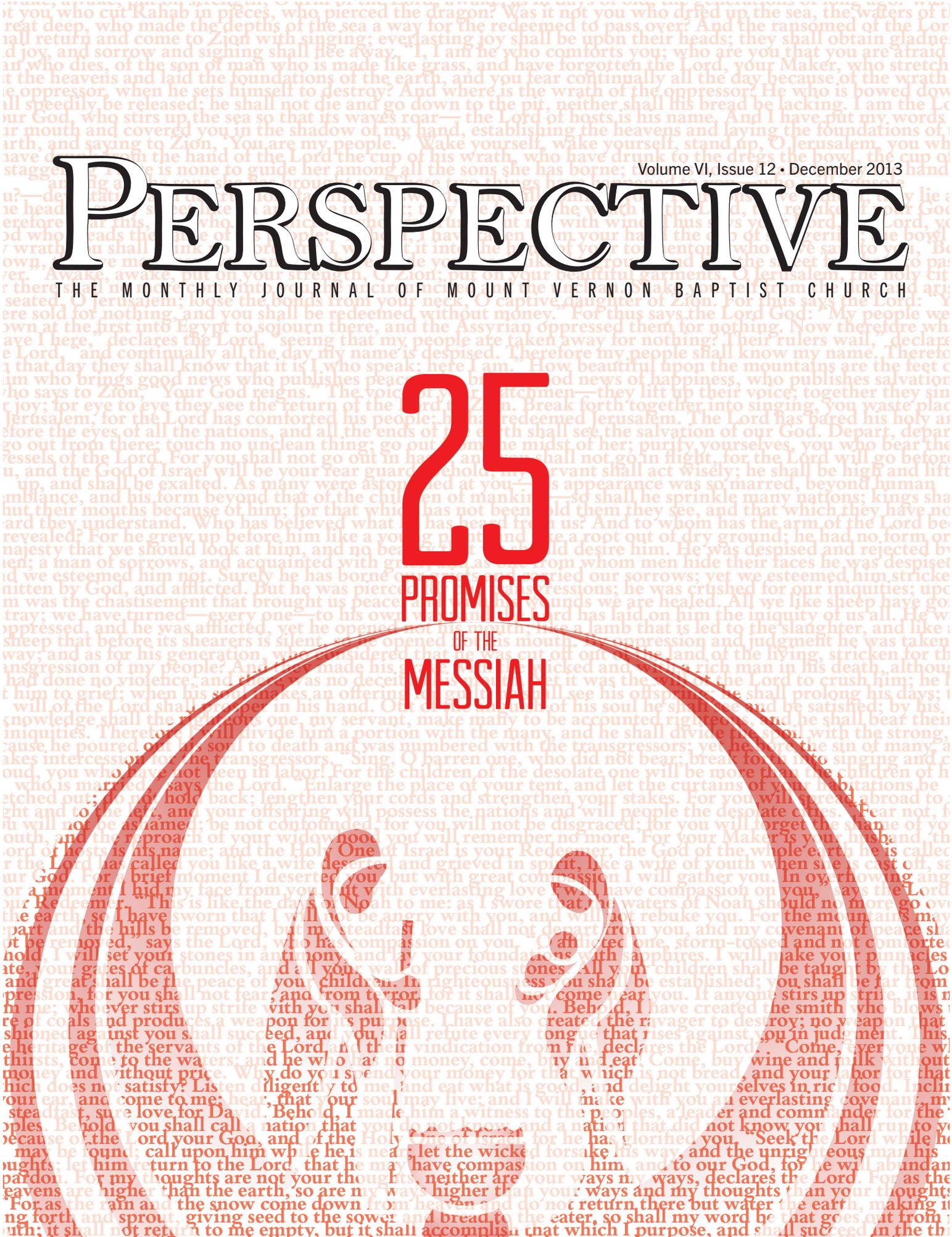


PERSPECTIVE

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

25

PROMISES OF THE MESSIAH





850 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW • Sandy Springs, GA 30327
 Phone: 404-255-3133 • Fax: 404-255-3166
 info@mvbchurch.org • www.mvbchurch.org

CHURCH STAFF



Aaron Menikoff
 Senior Pastor
 aaronmenikoff@mvbchurch.org



Bryan Pillsbury
 Associate Pastor/Missions
 bryanpillsbury@mvbchurch.org



David Carnes
 Associate Pastor/Corporate Worship
 davidcarnes@mvbchurch.org



Brad Thayer
 Associate Pastor/Administration
 bradthayer@mvbchurch.org



Doug Young
 Associate Pastor/Family Ministry
 dougyoung@mvbchurch.org



Bert Neal
 Administrative Assistant
 bertneal@mvbchurch.org



Priscilla Barry
 Administrative Assistant
 priscillabarry@mvbchurch.org



Anne Russo
 Financial Assistant
 annerusso@mvbchurch.org

SERMON SCHEDULE

December 1
A Humble Servant
 Isaiah 52:13–53:12

December 8
A Perfect Home
 Isaiah 54:1–17

December 15
An Urgent Invitation
 Isaiah 55:1–13

December 22
The Christmas Sermon
 Luke 1:1–38

December 29
Will Next Year Be Any Different?
 Psalm 90
 Associate Pastor: Brad Thayer

FIGHTER VERSE

²⁸ “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28–30

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Knowing MVBC

A look at our newest members.

page 1

The Bookshelf:

Set Free by Stephen Owens

A book review on forgiveness and providence.

by Nancy Guthrie of tcg.org

page 1

Cover Article:

25 Promises of the Messiah

An article discussing grounding faith in the promises of the Messiah.

by Aaron Menikoff

page 3



Use the QR reader on your mobile device to sign up to receive each issue of *Perspective* by email.

Knowing

M V B C



These individuals were voted into membership at the Church in Conference on November 17, 2013. Make a point to get to know and love them.

The *Knowing MVBC* membership class is a four-session course that introduces you to life at Mount Vernon.

The next class is being offered **Sunday, January 12.**

The first session takes place during the Sunday School hour (9:15–10:15 am). The remaining sessions take place from 12:00–2:30 pm. Lunch is provided.

Session 1:
Knowing Our Commitments:
Church Covenant

Session 2
Knowing Our Beliefs:
Statement of Faith

Session 3
Knowing Our Structure:
Leadership

Session 4
Knowing How to Be Involved:
Discipling & Serving

Sign up is available on the edge of the bulletin or by contacting the church office at 404-255-3133 or info@mvbchurch.org.

BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW THAT
YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, THAT
YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

—JOHN 13:35

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:



Eric & Jennifer Barbour
Smyrna, GA



Joy Baxley
Alpharetta, GA



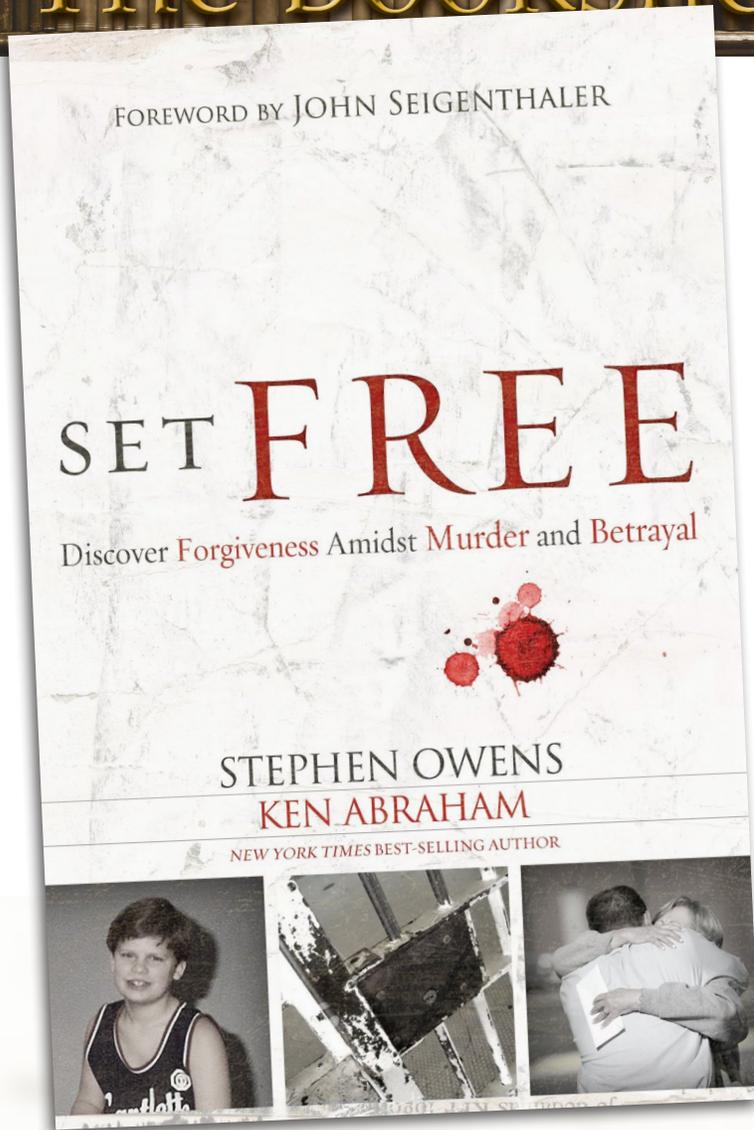
Chris & Maura Foy
Marietta, GA



Ryan & Griffin James
Awbrey
Atlanta, GA



Kell & Jessica Rozman
Atlanta, GA



Set Free

by Stephen Owens

Reviewed by Nancy Guthrie*

* This book review was originally posted on thegospelcoalition.org. Reprinted with permission.

When Stephen Owens told his story in freshman Bible class that day in 2005, he hadn't seen his mother since he testified against her at her trial when he was 13 years old. Our son was in the classroom when Owens recounted the story of how his mom had hired someone to kill his dad. At that point she was set to be the first woman executed in Tennessee in 189 years.

There was another teacher in the classroom that day, who later stopped Owens in the hallway and said, "You're Stephen Owens, and your mom is Gaile Owens?" Owens answered yes. This teacher, Steve Wilson, spent most Friday nights preaching at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Gaile Owens had been coming to his Sunday night services for more than a decade at the prison. Wilson said he wanted to facilitate getting Stephen into the prison to see his mother. But Stephen had no interest in seeing her or having any kind of relationship with her. Based on what he understood about what happened 20 years earlier, he never wanted to see his mother again.

In his new book, *Set Free: Discover Forgiveness amidst Murder and Betrayal*, Stephen tells the story of how this hallway conversation got a ball rolling in his life—a ball that rolled very slowly, leading him down a

pathway that changed him from a bitter young man with deep resentment for all his mom had taken away in having his dad killed, to a forgiving son joining the fight to keep her from being put to death. Just as Stephen began a relationship with his mother, her execution date was set. And just as he began to introduce his young sons to their imprisoned grandmother through cards and letters, he began to wonder if he'd eventually have to explain her death to them.

PROVIDENCE AND FORGIVENESS

Having followed Gaile Owens's case in the newspapers all the way through to the commutation of her sentence by the governor of Tennessee in 2010, I expected the book to shed more light on the abuse she experienced that drove her to want her husband dead. But it isn't really in there—perhaps because *Set Free* isn't so much her story but her son's. And while the book purports to be all about forgiveness, it seemed to me to be just as much about providence.

As I read *Set Free*, I couldn't help but think of the biblical book of Ruth. The author of Ruth writes that Ruth "happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz," and later when Boaz sat at the city gate that "the

redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by”—as if by coincidence. But really the writer seems to be shouting to us between the lines: this is no coincidence at all! Ruth didn't just *happen* to glean in Boaz's field, and the closer kinsman-redeemer didn't just *happen* to come by the city gate as Boaz sat there. We are meant to see the providence of God at work in an otherwise desperate situation.

Reading *Set Free*, one cannot help but see the same God of providence at work in a similarly desperate situation—bringing Stephen to Nashville near where his mother was in prison; opening up a job for him at the Christian school where Wilson, who'd been ministering to her for more than a decade, also worked; and making Wilson the kind of guy who refused to give up easily but continued for four years to gently prod his colleague and brother in Christ to go to the prison to visit his mom.

The book of Ruth is also the story of Naomi and the bitterness she felt defined her. Naomi came home from Moab with an empty stomach, slept in an empty bed, and all she could see in her future was unbearable emptiness. But God was at work. The same God who filled the emptiness at creation with light and life filled Naomi's stomach with the grain of the barley harvest. He filled her arms with a child who would be the heir of her family's inheritance so their name wouldn't be blotted out in Israel. More than that, he filled her life with the hope of a future descendant who would be the source of blessing to all the families of the earth.

For many years Stephen Owens was defined by bitterness. All of the important events of his life—his athletic events, the day he got married, the birth of his son—were all punctuated by the painful emptiness he felt

in not being able to share those events with the dad he idolized. But God met him in his emptiness and filled it with the joy of reconciliation and the joy that flows from obedience.

STORY OF REDEMPTION

Of course the book of Ruth is primarily the story of a redeemer—a redeemer who demonstrates in shadow form the redemption that will be accomplished by a greater Redeemer to come. *Set Free* is also a beautiful story of redemption accomplished by the Redeemer. My favorite moment in the book is when Stephen writes: “I want to be a Christ-centered man for my children. I don't want my boys to grow up and see me as a man full of anger and resentment. I want them to see firsthand the healing power of Christ. I want to tell them that the Bible is true. He is our Savior, and you really can do all things through Christ who gives you strength.” In fact, if I had a criticism of the book, it would be that I wish there'd been more of these moments of Stephen expressing his desire to please Christ and his need for Christ to empower his forgiveness.

The beautiful conclusion of *Set Free* is Stephen's recognition that his mother wasn't the only member of his family who was imprisoned for more than a quarter of a century. “I was equally as bound and shackled by my bitterness, anger, and the broken trust that decimated my life that night in 1985 when I found my dying father,” he admits. “I thank God every day that my mother has been set free, from prison and from the past. And I thank God that I have been set free as well.”

We're thankful too, Stephen. *Soli Deo Gloria!* ■

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 • 5:00 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve service. This candlelight service is a time of worship and celebration of Jesus' incarnation, death, and resurrection.

Childcare is available for children ages 3 and under.



The earliest believers did not consider their Christian faith to be something wholly new. Rather, they understood Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection to be the fulfillment of a multitude of promises held out for God's people in the Old Testament. Our faith, like theirs, should be grounded in these promises of a Messiah who came to save his people.

*Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne;
Worthy our Saviour of all their praises;
Happy for ever are His own.*

As we head into Christmas, let's reflect on what the prophets foretold. Not every passage is a direct promise of the incarnation, but each one predicts the coming and work of Christ. As you read these passages, marvel afresh at the meticulous, unfolding plan of God. Throughout Scripture we find many promises of the Messiah. Here are just 25.

1. One who will defeat Satan (Genesis 3:15)

Satan led Eve into temptation. Sadly, she gave in. God, however, will have the last word. He promises that one day, a descendant of Eve will bruise Satan's head—a reference to a crushing death. This descendant must be Jesus who struck the first blow at the cross (Heb. 2:14), and who will fully defeat him at the end of time. In the opening pages of Scripture, we find the promise of a Messiah who will fully and forever defend God's people against the work of Satan.

2. One who will be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1–3)

Long before Abraham even had a family, the Lord promised he would be the father of a great nation, with descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. In the Gospel of Matthew we read that Jesus is "the son of Abraham" (1:1). Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. In Christ the offspring of Abraham has arrived (Gal. 3:16), and all the nations will be blessed.

3. One who will be a king from Abraham (Genesis 17:7)

A few chapters later in Genesis, God repeats his promise to Abraham. Only this time God makes clear that Abraham will be the father of royalty. Kings will arise from his descendants. Therefore, God's people should be on the lookout for a royal heir. In Christ, the king and "the heir of all things" has arrived (Heb. 1:2).

4. One who will be a redeemer (Job 19:25)

We don't know when Job lived, perhaps in the days of Abraham. He suffered the loss of his family, his wealth and his reputation. On his darkest day, Job had nothing. But he never lost hope. To the end of his days he trusted in God, his Maker. And that's not all. Job believed that one day he would be vindicated. "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth." Who is this Redeemer? Job may not have seen clearly, but he somehow knew God would save him in the flesh. In the words of the English poet, Christina Rossetti:

*Up Thy Hill of Sorrows
Thou all alone,
Jesus, man's Redeemer,
Climbing to a Throne.*

5. One who will be from the line of Judah (Genesis 49:10)

Abraham's descendant, Joseph, was an amazing man. Though he would be prince of Egypt, neither he nor his children would reign over Israel. That honor would be given to one from the line of Joseph's brother,

Judah. As the prophecy goes, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah." King David was from Judah. And, as the scribes told Herod, the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, "in the land of Judah" (Matt. 2:6).

6. One who will bear God's wrath for us (Exodus 12:7)

God promised to strike down the firstborn of every family in Egypt. God is holy and just, and he has the right to demand the lives of sinful people. All Egypt and all of Abraham's descendants living in Egypt deserved to suffer under the sentence of this judgment. But God provided a way of escape for his people. Each family that spread the blood of a lamb on its doorposts would be saved. And centuries later, the wise understood the cry of John the Baptist, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

7. One who will mediate between God and man (Exodus 14:15)

The Israelites had been trapped in Egypt, held hostage by a merciless king. With his troops behind them and the Red Sea before them, all appeared lost. But in their moment of desperation, "The LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.'" Weary Israel followed Moses to safety. This verse is not a direct prophecy, of course. But certainly we have here an arrow, pointing us to "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). We follow him to safety still.

**Our faith should be grounded
in the promises of a Messiah
who came to save his people.**

8. One who will be our scapegoat (Leviticus 16:21)

God's people were to be holy. But God knew they would fail. So he provided a regular means for them to receive his forgiveness. On the Day of Atonement, in the shadow of the Temple, the High Priest laid his hands on a live goat, confessed over it the sins of all the people, and sent that goat off into the wilderness. That goat took the sins of the people away for a year. But who would take away our sins forever? It would be Jesus who, just as the goat would die in the wilderness, was called to die "outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured" (Heb. 13:12–13).

9. One who will be a Prophet of Prophets (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Moses was a prophet. He was the voice of God for the people. But Moses wouldn't lead perfectly, and he couldn't lead forever. Moses knew the people would always need a prophet, and they would need an even greater prophet. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Moses promised, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from you brothers—it is to him you shall listen." Jesus came as the Prophet of Prophets. He said that God's people would "know his voice" (John 10:5). The author of Hebrews confirms that Jesus is the final prophet: "[I]n these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son" (Heb. 1:2).

10. One who will be a Priest of Priests (Psalm 110)

David made a statement that has puzzled readers for centuries: "The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.'" Who is "my Lord?" That's the question Jesus asked in Luke 20:41. Jesus' point was simple: the Messiah cannot be merely a descendent from David since he existed before David. A few verses later

in Psalm 110, David calls this Lord, “a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” Melchizedek was “priest of God Most High” who both blessed Abraham and received from him offerings (Gen. 14:17–20). Just as Melchizedek was Abraham’s priest and lord, so Jesus is David’s Lord. Jesus is the one who can bless—he is the Priest of Priests promised by David (see Heb. 7:11–17).

11. One who will be a King of Kings (2 Samuel 7:12)

King David was a mighty warrior, but he wasn’t the King of Kings. That honor would fall upon David’s descendent, his offspring. God’s promise to David of a king whose kingdom is forever would intrigue and inspire the Israelites for generations. Jesus is David’s descendant, the promised king. The first thing Matthew says about Jesus is that he is the Son of David (Matt. 1:1), the King of Kings.

12. One who will be a sacrifice (2 Samuel 24)

The last chapter of Samuel is sobering. Israel has sinned once again. The wrath of God hangs over Jerusalem—an angel of the Lord is about to bring the city to its knees. Seeing the sword of God about to fall on the city, David cries out, “Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father’s house” (2 Sam. 24:17). That is true leadership. Jesus came into the world, and he never sinned, and yet he said, “I lay down my life for the sheep” (John 10:15). With joy, the infant grew into a man, and “endured the cross.” At Calvary the sword of God’s judgment fell, but Jesus presented himself, like David, as a sacrifice for us (Heb. 12:2).

**The Messiah cannot be merely
a descendent from David since
he existed before David.**

13. One who is always was the Son of God (Psalm 2:7)

In ancient Israel, kings were considered representatives of God himself. They stood over the people in a privileged position. God worked through the king to exercise compassion and justice in Israel. It was, therefore, no small thing for a king to be coronated. Psalm 2 is a coronation psalm. The crowned king, God’s Anointed, is given the title, Son of God. But Psalm 2 is prophesying a Son of God who is no mere mortal, but God himself, in the flesh, the second person of the Trinity. The Gospel of Mark begins by describing Jesus as “the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). And at his baptism, what does Jesus hear but, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11). Make no mistake; Jesus is the eternal Son of God.

14. One who will fulfill the sign of Jonah (Jonah 1:17)

For three days and three nights Jonah was in the belly of a large fish. During that time he called out to the Lord, but there was no answer. Jonah had been cast into deep waters, and the waves overwhelmed him. He had run from the Lord, and he now felt the weight of God’s wrath. Jonah recounted his despair: “The waters closed in over me, to take my life” (Jonah 2:5). But the LORD intervened, and Jonah was saved. When the Pharisees asked for a sign that Jesus was the Son of God, Jesus said they’d only get “the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matt. 12:39–40). Look back at the life of Jonah, and you

will find a man whose trial and salvation at sea foreshadow Jesus’ death and resurrection.

15. One who will be the new Israel (Hosea 11:1)

The prophet Hosea preached about 750 years before the birth of Jesus. He spoke of the love of God for his people, a people God had saved from Egypt. The Lord, through Hosea, put it like this: “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” Years later, another son would go to Egypt. Herod forced Joseph and Mary to flee south to save their baby. Herod was a wicked man who cared most deeply about his own power. But the flight of Joseph and Mary to Egypt was no accident. They fled Egypt so that Jesus could one day retrace the steps of God’s son, Israel. As Matthew understood it, Jesus’ exodus from Egypt, “[W]as to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’” Jesus came into the world to live the life Israel should have led—he is the new Israel. Thankfully, he lived the life we should have lived, too.

16. One who will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Micah had a hard word for the southern kingdom of Judah. They deserved God’s judgment. But Micah had a tender word of encouragement, too. The Savior would be from Judah. In fact, he would be born in Bethlehem. And this is exactly where Jesus was born (Matt. 2:1)—in the very spot the Israelites of his day expected the Messiah to arrive (Matt. 2:6).

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

17. One who will be born of a virgin, Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

Isaiah has been called the prophet *par excellence*. No herald spoke with greater clarity about the coming Messiah than this man from Jerusalem. From Isaiah’s lips came the promise of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son named Immanuel. Like the parting of the Red Sea, the victory of Gideon’s army, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, this birth to a virgin is a great miracle. Jesus’ birth to Mary was promised long ago. Jesus is Immanuel (Matt. 1:22–25).

18. One who will be both a child and the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:1–7)

The Assyrians threatened Jerusalem in Isaiah’s day. King Sennacherib’s men had destroyed most of Judah and only Jerusalem survived. The people were petrified. They had no earthly reason to believe they would be spared. Remarkably, Isaiah tells them to place their hope not in kings, but in the coming of a child. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6). In Jesus, the Prince of Peace was born (Luke 2:11).

19. One who will be a light to the nations (Isaiah 42:1–7)

At the heart of Isaiah are the Songs of the Servant—four passages that speak of a coming servant of the Lord. These four texts, when combined, paint a picture of Jesus. The first, Isaiah 42, is the promise of a servant who will be filled with the Spirit of God (42:1), the justice of God (42:4), and the righteousness of God (42:6). He will be given as “a light for the

nations.” Jesus identified himself as this servant, the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5; 1 John 2:8).

20. One who is the glory of the Lord (Isaiah 49:1–13)

This is Isaiah’s second servant song. Here is the promise of man whose mouth is “like a sharp sword” (Isa. 49:2), whose salvation reaches to the end of the earth (49:6), and who shall see kings bow before him (49:7). The earth will make way for the arrival of this Servant. Mountains will become roads to prepare for the coming of the Lord (Luke 3:5). The language is not subtle; this servant is God himself. To see the Servant is to see the glory of God. As the Lord said, “in him will I be glorified (Isa. 49:3). No wonder, then, that Jesus prayed, “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:5). Jesus is the glory of the Lord.

**In Christ, God himself has
come to earth, the Lamb
of God had finally arrived.**

21. One who will perfectly obey God (Isaiah 50:4–9)

In the third servant song, the servant speaks. “The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward” (Isa. 50:5). In fact, the songs ends with a declaration of his personal holiness, “Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?” Isaiah predicts a servant who perfectly trusts and obeys his heavenly Father. This is Jesus who “made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). Jesus is the servant who perfectly obeyed his Father.

22. One who suffers in our place (Isaiah 53)

This chapter is the last and most famous of the servant songs in Isaiah. It’s the prophecy of a suffering servant. He “grew up before him like a young plant,” but “was despised and rejected by men” (Isa. 53:2, 3). And in the end, this servant suffered and died in the place sinners: “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities” (53:5). Jesus knew he fulfilled Isaiah’s promise when he said, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus is the suffering servant.

23. One who will bring righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5–6)

Jeremiah prophesied during Israel’s darkest day when King Nebuchadnezzar razed Jerusalem in 586 BC. Where could the people turn for help,

especially given the fact that their own sin invited the invasion of the Babylonian army? Jeremiah sets their eyes onto the future, to a day when a descendent would come to “execute justice and righteousness.” How did Jesus do this? By being and bringing the righteousness of God. Paul marveled at the fact that Christ was the promised king, and that his righteousness could become ours: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).

24. One whose arrival will be announced (Malachi 3:1)

The last Old Testament prophet, Malachi, ministered about 400 years before the birth of Christ. His preaching ushered in generations when God’s people did not hear from God. But God would eventually break the silence. God would send a messenger to announce his arrival. The Lord himself would come. As God promised through Malachi: “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.” Jesus cited this very verse when the people asked about John the Baptist. John came to prepare us for the arrival of God in the flesh (Matt 11:7–10).

25. One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33)

John the Baptist burst on the scene, finally breaking 400 years of divine silence. God had finally spoken. The messenger had arrived. The Lord had come! The people did not recognize John, nor the Savior to whom John pointed. But Jesus is one whose sandals we are not worthy to untie (John 1:27). He is the Son of God (John 1:34). He is the Lamb of God (John 1:29). Jesus came to suffer and die for his people. And all who believe this message, who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, receive the Holy Spirit of God and with it everlasting life.

*Joy to the world!
the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.*

This Christmas we celebrate the birth of a Messiah promised long ago. It would do your soul good to stop and recall that for thousands of years God’s people awaited the arrival of One who would take care of sin and death. Jesus is the Messiah they were waiting for. In the midst of wrapping paper and parties, decorations and lights, travel and family and friends, I pray that you see with eyes of faith that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the one God’s people had been expecting for centuries, and the One for whom we no longer have to wait.

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee. ■*

~ Aaron Menikoff

ISAIAH’S GOSPEL

*A four-week sermon series
in the book of Isaiah*

This month, Pastor Aaron will conclude his series in the book of Isaiah.

Each sermon will be available the week after is delivered through the Mount Vernon Podcast on iTunes and on the church’s website.

Sermons are also available on CD for \$5 a copy.

December 2013

1				5	6	7
8	10:30 am Lord's Supper	9	10	11 6:30 pm Preschool "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party	13 6:30 pm Youth Christmas Feast	14
15	7:00 pm Christmas at Mount Vernon 8:30 pm Christmas at Mount Vernon Reception	16 12:00 pm RW&A Luncheon	17	18 6:15 pm Carols & Cocoa	20 Covenant Group Signup Deadline	21
22	No Evening Service	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Church Office Closed 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> No Evening Activities	27	28
29	No Sunday School 10:30 am Guest Preacher: Brad Thayer No Evening Service	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

EVENTS

CHURCHWIDE

December 8 10:30 am Lord's Supper

We encourage members to examine their hearts and relationship with one another in preparation for this celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

December 15 7:00 pm Christmas at Mount Vernon & Reception

Mount Vernon's annual choral and orchestral concert is a time of worship and exaltation to Christ with the theme *Our God Has Come to Us*. A reception will follow immediately after the concert in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is available for children 5 and under.

December 18 6:15 pm Carols & Cocoa

Join us for a time of fellowship with Chef Andy's hot cocoa as we gather around the piano to sing Christmas carols. There will be a special appearance by the preschool choir.

December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

(See ad on pg. 3.)

ADULT

December 16 12:00 pm RW&A Luncheon

Everyone 50 and older is invited to lunch and fellowship as the RW&A's kick off the fall season. Please bring a covered dish.

December 20 Covenant Group Signup Deadline

If you are interested in signing up for a Covenant Group for 2014, please visit www.mvbchurch.org/covenant-groups-2014.

WOMEN

December 3 7:00 pm Women's Christmas Dinner

All ladies are invited to the annual Christmas dinner, a great time of fellowship over a delicious meal catered by Chef Andy. There will be festive and worshipful Christmas music and a devotional by Alicia Young. Tickets are on sale on Wednesday evenings and before and after the Sunday morning service for \$15/ea. or \$20 for you and a guest who is not a Mount Vernon member.

CHILDREN

December 11 6:30 pm "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party

Preschoolers (ages 3–6) and families are invited to a great time of music, sharing the Christmas story, and making Christmas crafts and gifts for homebound members. Each preschooler must be accompanied by one adult. This will be held downstairs in the preschool hall.

YOUTH

December 13 6:30 pm Youth Christmas Feast

The sixth annual youth Christmas Feast will be a great time of food and fellowship hosted by the Chandler family at their home in East Cobb. Please bring any lightly worn and good condition winter clothes to donate to Wears Valley Ranch.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Betti Hankey | 17 | Jim Clayton |
| 2 | Marvin Dawkins | | Richard Lawson |
| | Ginger Bradshaw | 19 | Henry Dolive |
| | Laurie Wharton | 21 | Ambra Groslimond |
| 3 | Erik Britt | 22 | Don Thurman |
| | Alison Lawson | 23 | Smith Swilley |
| 5 | Bob Cranfill | 25 | Victoria Birminham |
| | Kaki Henderson | 29 | Celton Marler |
| 7 | Heather Pillsbury | | David Metry |
| 8 | Gene Scott | 30 | Bob Becknell |
| | Susan Sexton | | Sylvia Hennessy |
| 10 | Morris Bradshaw | | Alice Hare |
| | Cheryl Coen | 31 | Betsy Montemayor |
| 11 | Fredda Coleman | | Gary Stillwagon |
| 12 | Karna Case | | Dinah Stephens |
| 15 | Bethany Belt | | Joy Baxley |
| 16 | Melissa Larkin | | |





Mount Vernon

BAPTIST CHURCH

850 Mount Vernon Highway NW
Sandy Springs, GA 30327