



NOVEMBER 30 SERVICE – WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Nov 30, 2025 · Mike Strand

We're going to spend the 4 weeks of Advent looking at the 4 titles promised about Jesus from [Isaiah 9:6](#), this week starting with 'Wonderful Counselor.' How is God a wonderful counselor to us? What has He provided for us that would allow Him to be called that?

Join us Sunday as we begin our Advent series titled 'In Real Life.'

SERMON SLIDES

SERMON NOTES

SERMON MANUSCRIPT

Pastor Mike's Musings

Mike's Thoughts on Books, Movies, Culture and Life

Mighty God – Sermon Manuscript

-Christmas beef: why are ornaments so flimsy? They know kids are going to be grabbing them, throwing them around, why do they use the most fragile pieces? We've already had some ornaments break because we have 2 2-year-olds who think the tree is their new toy! Our other kids are already starting to realize that these ornaments tell a story. My grandma got all her grandkids a new ornament every year, so all my ornaments have a history to them. My parents have started doing the same thing with my kids, each ornament they pull out their reminded of an event that happened that year.

-All of us have a history, memories that can be triggered by different things, right? The one that always gets me is the corner of MOA that has Cinnabon. I loved MOA when I was in HS (much less fondness as an adult), but that corner that smells like cinnamon gets me every time I walk by!

-God created us as storied creatures. We use stories to make sense of the world, and to make sense of our lives. We define ourselves by the stories we tell. And God is the same way.

-A few years ago, I came across a minimalist drawing of the various relationships we'll have over our lives. I'm not saying they're all the most appropriate (I think this was published in the New York Times), but it's an interesting way to think about our various relationships throughout our lives, isn't it? And each one of these tells a story. We're going to read Isaiah 9 again, and this week we're focusing on the second name: Mighty God. But as I read it, I want you to think about the story it's telling.

READ/PRAY (pg. 607)

1. What is Your Story?

THIS IS ME



RECENT POSTS

- » [Mighty God – Sermon Manuscript](#)
- » [Wonderful Counselor – Sermon Manuscript](#)
- » [1 Timothy 6:11-21 – Sermon Manuscript](#)
- » [1 Timothy 5:17-6:10 – Sermon Manuscript](#)
- » [1 Timothy 5:1-16 – Sermon Manuscript](#)

Screen Sha

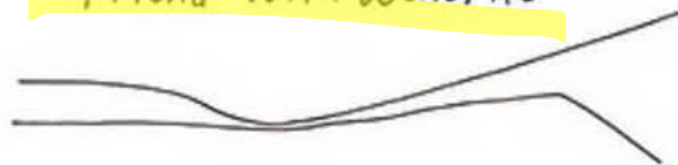


IN REAL LIFE

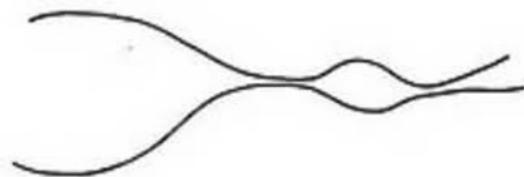
Best Friend - Childhood



Friend With Benefits



Best Friend - College



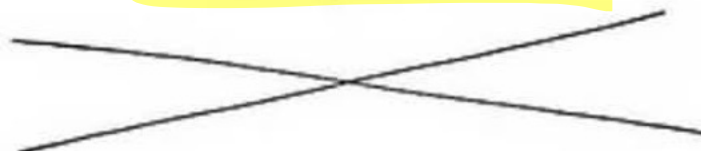
Someone You Meet at the Wrong Time,
Then Re-Meet at the Right One



Sibling



One Night Stand



Parent



Therapist



First Love



Dog



de Recat



Mighty God- Isaiah 9 (pg. 607)



1) What is Your Story?

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

“Augustine has added one small word to his original question, “*quid es*,” “what are you?” He now asks, “*quid es mihi*” — “what are you to me?” And he continues, *Have mercy on me so I may tell. Say to my soul, I am your salvation. . . . Say it so I can hear it . . .*

Augustine

“This new question is much harder to answer in a way that draws attention to oneself at God’s expense, because in order to answer the question, “what are you to me?” you cannot take refuge in your knowledge of philosophy or theology. You have to tell a story. You have to tell a story about what God is to you. Further, you will need God’s grace and mercy in order to fully give into the longing to praise God, because it will be a story that can be summed up as, “You are my salvation, Lord!” That is the answer to the question of how we praise God adequately...

Augustine

“This kind of story is really hard to brag about because you have to admit that you screwed up, and not just a little bit but totally, and in pursuit of smoke and mirrors, nothing, instead of God. And yet, “You gave it back to me, you gave myself back to me, and along with it the ability to tell the story truly, even though it will cost me.” *That is confession. Confession of my sin and confession of God’s mercy, unto praise: “You are my salvation, Lord!””*

Augustine

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- 1) What is Your Story?**
 - 2) What is God's Story?**

“There is a king who **rules**, a people who are **ruled**, and a sphere where this rule is **recognized** as taking place. Put in another way, the Kingdom of God involves:

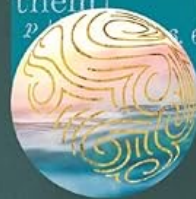
- a) God's people
- b) In God's place
- c) Under God's rule.” (and blessing)

Graeme Goldsworthy

VAUGHAN
ROBERTS

GOD'S BIG PICTURE

TRACING
the
STORYLINE
OF THE BIBLE



OT

- The Pattern of the Kingdom
- The Perished Kingdom
- The Promised Kingdom
- The Partial Kingdom
- The Prophesied Kingdom

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Genesis 2:1-3

The Pattern of the Kingdom

God's People	Adam & Eve
God's Place	The garden
God's Rule	<u>God's word</u>; perfect relationship

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:1, 9

The Perished Kingdom

God's People	No-one
God's Place	Banished
God's Rule	Disobedience and curse

**The Lord said to Abram:
Go from your land,
your relatives,
and your father's house
to the land that I will
show you.
I will make you into a
great nation,
I will bless you,**

**I will make your
name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who
bless you,
I will curse anyone who
treats you with contempt,
and all the peoples on
earth
will be blessed through
you.**

Genesis 12:1-3

The Promised Kingdom

God's People	Abraham's descendants
God's Place	Canaan
God's Rule	Blessing to Israel and the nations

“I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians. I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.”

Exodus 6:7-8

The Partial Kingdom

God's People	The Israelites
God's Place	Canaan (and Jerusalem and temple)
God's Rule	The law and the king

“Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—the Lord’s declaration. “I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them”—this is the Lord’s declaration. “For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

The Prophesied Kingdom

God's People	Remnant of Israel; inclusion of the nations
God's Place	New temple; new creation
God's Rule	New covenant; new king; great blessing

NT

- The Present Kingdom
- The Proclaimed Kingdom
- The Perfect Kingdom

**In those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the wilderness of Judea and
saying, “Repent, because the kingdom of
heaven has come near!”**

**From then on Jesus began to preach,
“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has
come near.”**

Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you—Silvanus, Timothy, and I—did not become “Yes and no.” On the contrary, in him it is always “Yes.” For every one of God’s promises is “Yes” in him. Therefore, through him we also say “Amen” to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

The Present Kingdom

God's People	Jesus Christ: new Adam; new Israel
God's Place	Jesus Christ: true tabernacle; true temple
God's Rule	Jesus Christ: new covenant; rest

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:6-8

The Proclaimed Kingdom

God's People	The new Israel: Jew and Gentile believers in Christ
God's Place	The individual believer; the church
God's Rule	<u>New covenant</u>; Holy Spirit

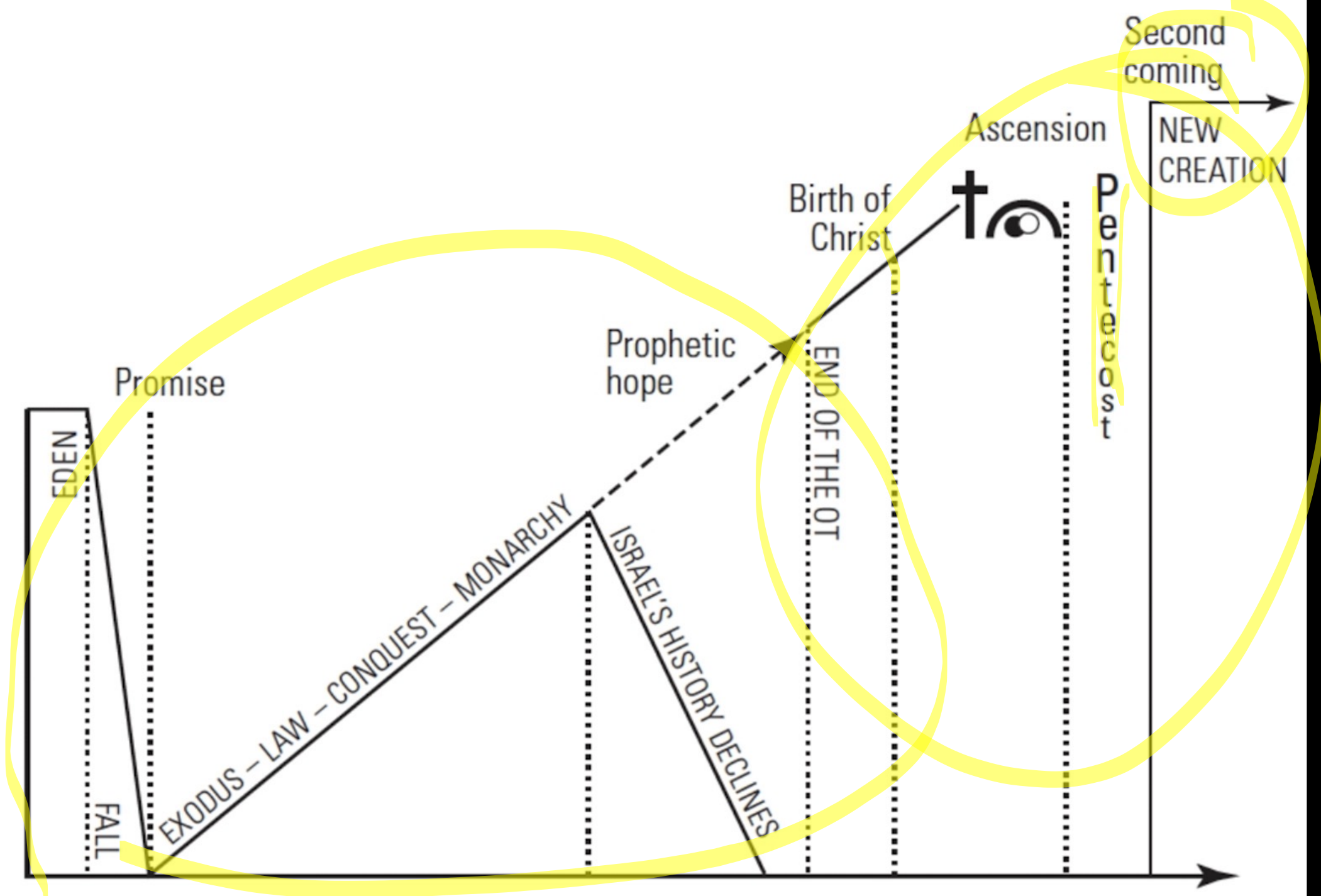
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.

Revelation 21:1-3

The Perfected Kingdom

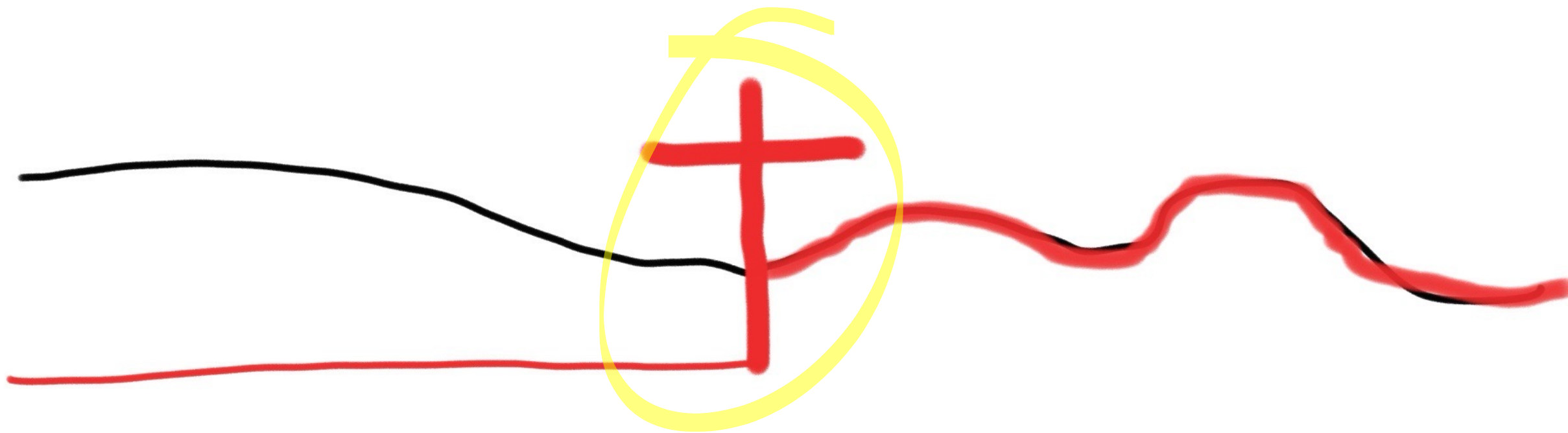
God's People	Multi-national family of God
God's Place	New creation, new Jerusalem, new temple
God's Rule	Throne of God and the Lamb; perfect blessing



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- 1) What is Your Story?**
 - 2) What is God's Story?**
 - 3) What Happens When Your Story Meets God's Story?**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:1-3





Mighty God