

Between the Testaments: Anchor of Hope

Speaker: Missy Carfield

Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 37

SUMMARY

In the “silent” centuries between Malachi and Matthew, God was not absent—He was preparing language, roads, hunger, and hope so that when Messiah broke into the darkness, a waiting people could recognize their Anchor.

OVERVIEW

Missy Carfield explores the intertestamental world: empire after empire, one common language, Roman roads, scattered people gathering in synagogues, and a rising desperation for deliverance. What looked like divine silence was actually stage-setting for the gospel to travel.

Into that edge-of-the-seat longing, Isaiah’s promise lands—“unto us a child is born”—and Ezekiel’s valley of dry bones becomes the people’s prayer: Can these bones live? She names our own already/not-yet tension: Messiah has come, yet we still wait for fullness of healing and kingdom. Hope is the anchor that holds while we wait.

KEY POINTS

- God was at work in the 400 years even when prophetic speech seemed quiet
- Common language and roads prepared the world for the good news to run
- Synagogue life kept scattered people clinging to God’s promises
- Hunger for a Messiah grew under oppression—hope on the edge of the seat
- Jesus breaks into darkness as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace
- We live in the already (salvation) and the not yet (full redemption)
- Ezekiel 37: dry bones hear the word and receive breath—dead things can live

MEMORABLE LINES

"It wasn't that God was absent. God had not abandoned them. God was at work."

"Here are the people of God who are so hungry and so thirsty to be rescued—for the Messiah to show up."

"Son of man, can these bones live?"

"There is the already... and yet we are still waiting on his kingdom to be complete."

TAKEAWAY

Where life feels silent or dark, refuse the lie that God has left. Cling to His promises, stay on the edge of your seat for Jesus, and speak life over what feels like dry bones.

SOURCE

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9LmDWkgQuc> (captions; official channel live titled Sunday Service 09:30 AM)
- Website: <https://www.baypointchurch.com/media/smbxp3z/between-the-testaments-anchor-of-hope>