

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Title:** Vision Sunday 2023

**Passage:** Isaiah 41:14-16

The message was from Isaiah, a prophetic book, recording God speaking into a specific context (The potted family history of Eden, Abram, Egypt, Moses, Sinai and David, Exile). We join this story in 720BC, as the Persian empire threatens to overrun Babylon and its Jewish exiles. God is using the Persians to send the Israelite's home to rebuild and restart worship at the Temple, bringing hope for the nations.

**Read Isaiah 41v14-16**

- **v14:** Israel is described as a worm, (small but used by God, Jonah's vine), but they have a Redeemer (like Boaz the Kinsman redeemer in Ruth).
- **v15:** God will make them into a threshing sledge, crushing significant obstacles, so they can make straight the desert road to their God (Isa 40v3-5).
- **41v16:** The wind will blow (Holy Spirit?), revealing the harvest, and they will rejoice and glory in God.

**Our Prophetic invitation:** *to play our part, to be used by God to level mountains, to make a way in the desert, to establish His kingdom, and bring the nations into His presence. If not now, then when?*

The starting point of accepting this invitation is not activity, but having our hearts revived): *"One of our greatest needs, if not our greatest need, is extraordinary prayer for the fulness of God's presence amongst his people". David Platt.* We are small, like a worm, but we have a strong Redeemer. As such, we are going to use the next two months pursuing extra-ordinary prayer for the fulness of the presence of God amongst us.

**Suggested Questions:**

1. Why is it important to understand the context?
2. Why was the phrase "Don't trust a skinny chef" quoted?
3. What could the phrase 'fulness of God's presence amongst his people' mean?
4. How could the prayer acronym PRAY help revive our hearts?
5. If not now, then when?