

## Sermon Notes: An Impossible Future

1. My failure at 16: Genesis to Revelation
2. Various approaches to the Bible: here I recommend two—window and mirror
3. Bible as window: what do you see when you look through it? To what events was the author responding? To whom was the author writing? How did the author's world at the time influence his perspective?
4. Seeing what's behind Isaiah 35 through the window: the exile, a time where the Jews were nearly destroyed by the Babylonians
5. A prophet rises up who speaks a word of hope in what seems like the impossible: "Be strong, do not fear!" Your salvation will come!
6. Bible as mirror: what does it show us about ourselves/our situation? Burning sands, thirsty ground, the earth is on fire.
7. Can Isaiah speak a word of hope to us now? From v. 6: "For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water."
8. This Word of hope: let us hope in what we cannot believe due to cynicism and despair. Salvation is a possibility for us, just as it was for the Israelites.