

*The comfort & discomfort of Christmas...*

**1. A Scene of Anticipation (v22-27a)**

- the laws: pointed to God's past salvation and sacrifice for cleansing (Ex. 13)
- the waiting: comfort of sins paid for, to enjoy salvation and restoration (Is. 40:1-2)
- the promise: he will see the Messiah (King), who'll bring all this

**2. A Song of Comfort (v27b-32)**

- praises God for he sees salvation in Jesus, which is for all nations (Is. 52:10)
- for this Messiah is also the Servant who pays 'double' for our sins (Is. 53:6-7)
- so brings comfort of sins paid for, to enjoy salvation and restoration with God

→ if we've forgotten the comfort of Christmas, then:

reflect on the seriousness of sin, so we'll hear the comfort of forgiveness

reflect on what God gives us, as part of our salvation & restoration with him

**3. A Postscript of Discomfort (v33-35)**

- a blessing for parents & a prophecy for Mary
- Jesus will divide people and expose our hearts

→ how we treat Jesus exposes our hearts towards Jesus:

do we believe in him as King who paid for our sin?

do we have him first in our heart?

***May we enjoy the comfort of Christmas,  
and keep Jesus first in our hearts!***