**Sermon Notes | December 3, 2023  
Home for Christmas: Part 1**

**1. Israel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from their homes**

**2. Life in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*"By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.2 There on the poplars we hung our harps,3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy." Psalm 137:1-6*

**3. An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home**

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God*

*Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.”- Isaiah 40:1-2*

**4. Christmas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ long before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” Isaiah 40:3*

*This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’' -Matthew 3:3*

***“Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. And, weak men create hard times.”***

***-G. Michael Hopf,***