

Bringing all the world back home

Isaiah 49:1-7

Slides from Nick Butcher's sermon at the
evening service, Sunday 30th November 2025

'Where's home?'

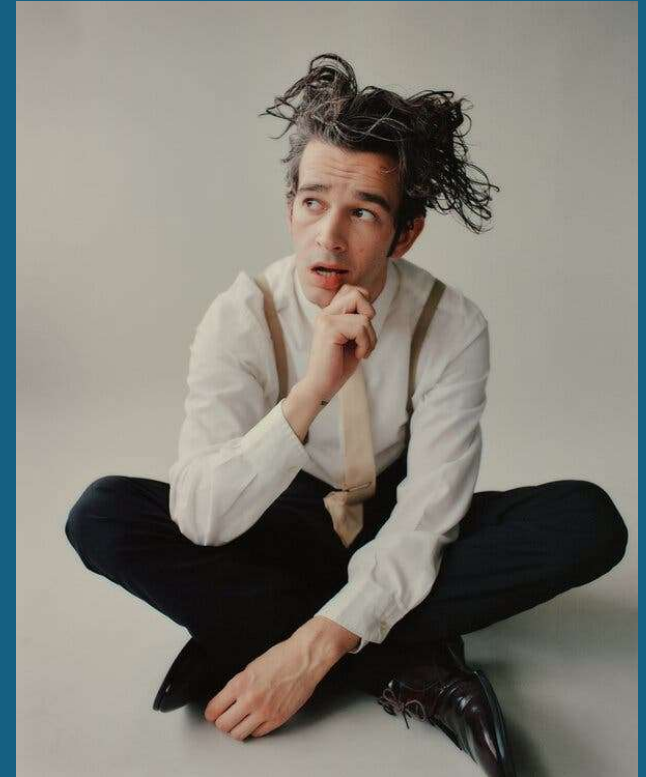
Exile



'I don't believe in
God, but I miss
him'

Julian Barnes, *Nothing to be Frightened of*

'I've got a God
shaped hole
that's infected'



The 1975, *If I believe you*

1 Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.
3 He said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.'

4 But I said, 'I have laboured in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due to me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God.'

5 And now the LORD says –
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength –

6 he says:

'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

7 This is what the LORD says –
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel –
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:
'Kings will see you and stand up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

The Promise

- Like a prophet (v.1)
- Called from the womb (v. 1)
- His words are his weapon (v. 2)
- Addressed as Israel (v. 3)
- Will show God's glory (v. 3)
- It will look like he's failed, but he trusts God will give his reward (v. 4)
- His task is to bring Israel back to God (v. 5)
- God will also use him to reach all people (v. 6)
- He will be despised and hated (v. 7)
- But one day all will bow before him (v. 7)

The Fulfilment:

Jesus – Bringing
the world back
home to God

- Look like the servant
- Long for the servant