



THE RISING SUN WILL COME TO US

Luke 1.57-80

First Sunday in Advent 2.12.18



Zechariah and Gabriel
Alexander Andreyevich Ivanov c 1830

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1.57-80

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, 'No! He is to be called John.'

They said to her, 'There is no one among your relatives who has that name.'

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1.57-80

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, 'His name is John.' Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?' For the Lord's hand was with him.

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1.57-80

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

*'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—*

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1.57-80

to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1.57-80

*to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which **the rising sun will come to us from heaven**
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.'*

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

*As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.*



the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

Luke 1.78-79

Zechariah Overflows

Song of praise (67-68)

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

‘Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Promises fulfilled (69-75)

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant **David** (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father **Abraham**.

Prophecy about John (76-77)

And you, **my child**, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins...

The Messiah (78-79)

because of the tender mercy of our God, by which **the rising sun will come to us from heaven** to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

Where does the idea of Messiah like *rising sun* come from?

Zechariah's
imagination

Prophetic
inspiration

Isaiah 9.2+6

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep
darkness

a light has dawned...

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Malachi 4.2

But for you who
revere my name,
**the sun of
righteousness
will rise** with
healing in its rays.

Christmas Carols



O Come, O Come, Immanuel

O come thou *dayspring* come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

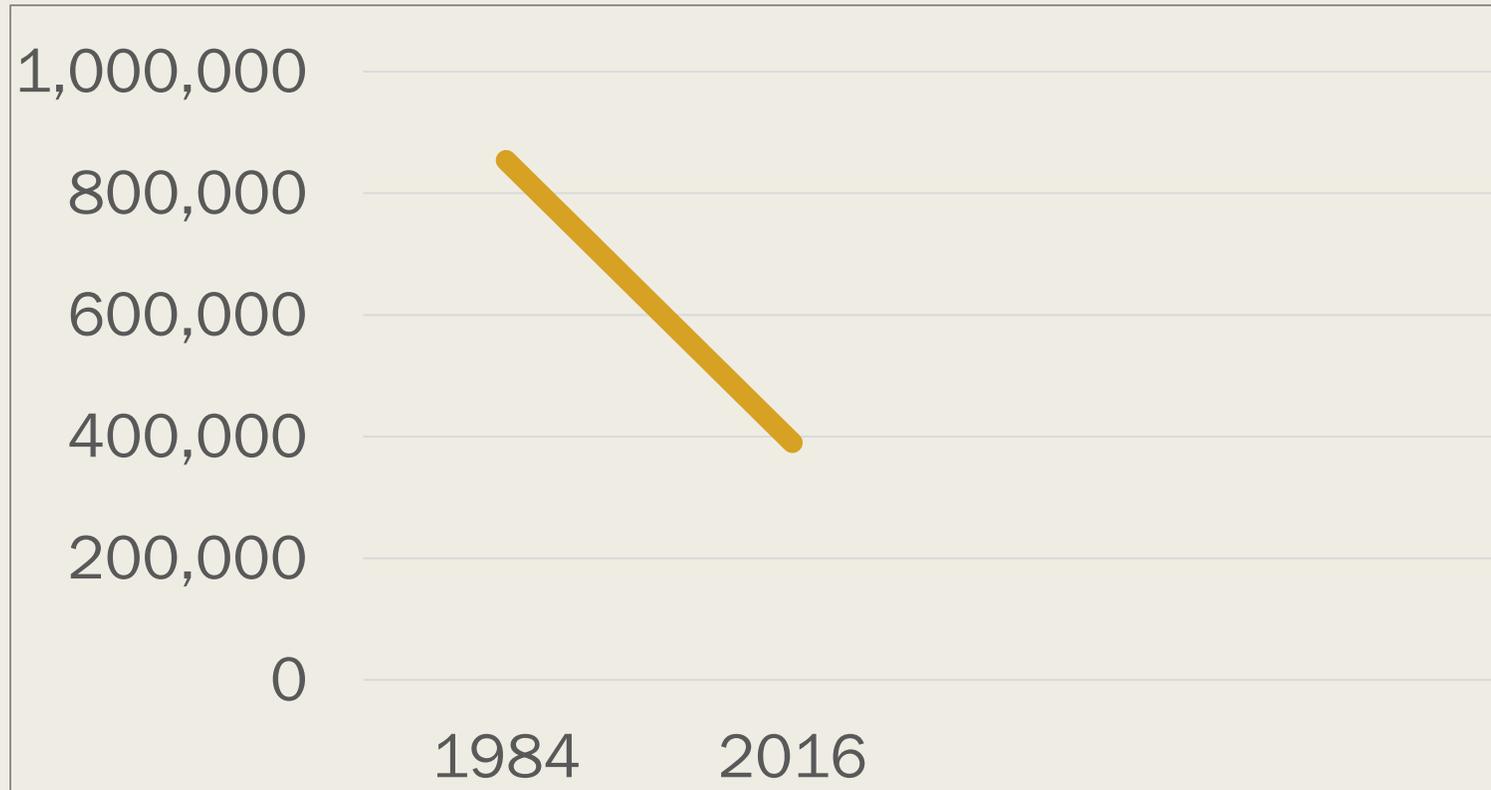
Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hail, Thou heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail Thou *sun of righteousness*,
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.

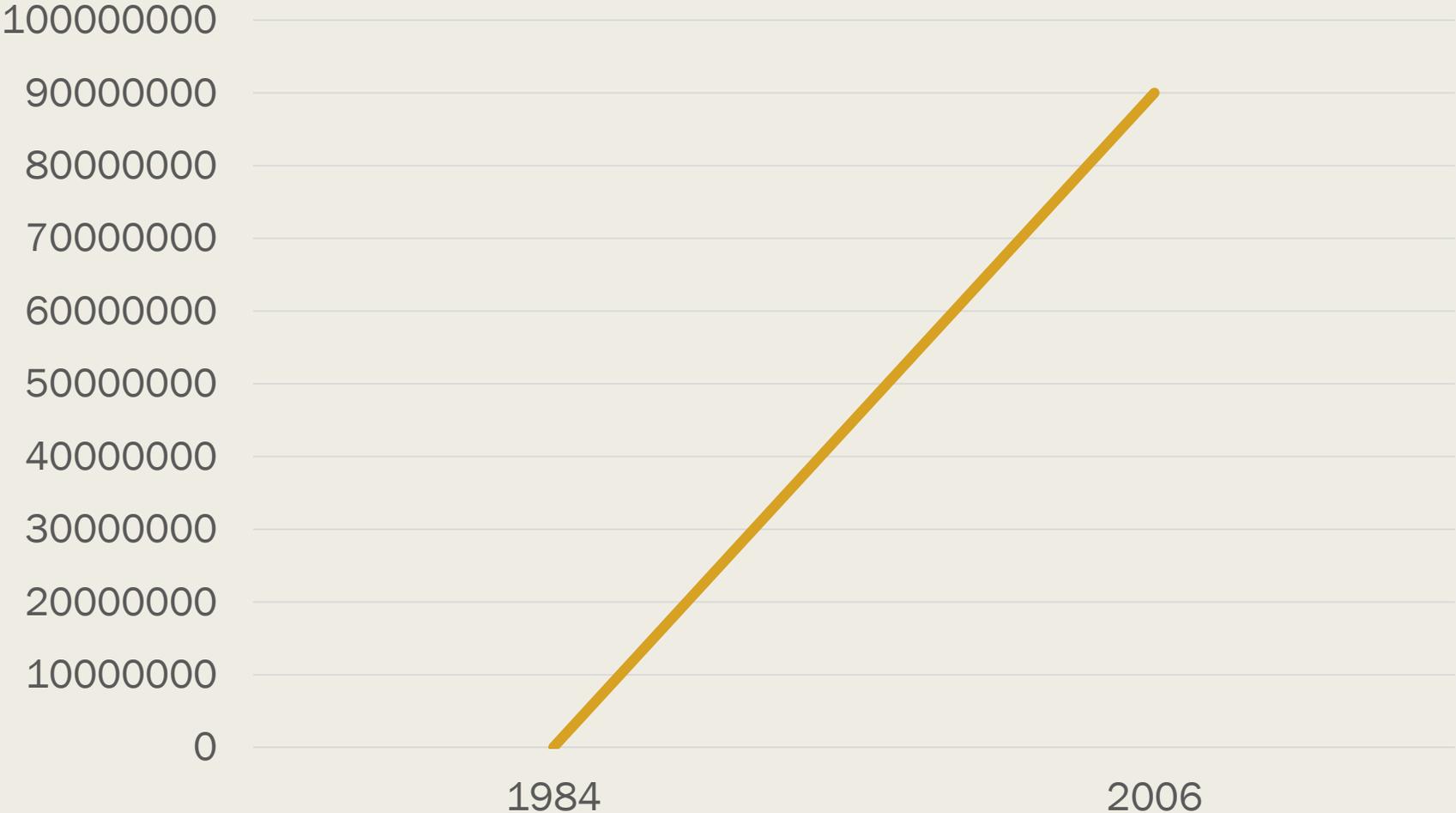
How is Messiah like the rising sun?

- Transforming Power
- Worldwide Reality

Church Attendance in Scotland



Church Growth in China



Church Growth In Acts

Acts 1.15	120	After ascension
Acts 2.41	3,000	Pentecost
Acts 4.4	5,000 men	Jerusalem church
Acts 5.14	More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.	After persecution

Acts 5.42:

‘Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.’

How is Messiah like the rising sun?

- Transforming Power
- Worldwide Reality
- Hiding in the Shadows



But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5.13-14