

**Date:** December 7, 2025

**Title:** The Hope of Christmas

**Passage:** Isaiah 9:1-7

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**Key Passage:**

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Key Truths:**

- The only way you overcome darkness is by turning on the light.
- Every title of Jesus answers a deep ache of the human soul.
  - When you feel confused or overwhelmed or don't know what to do, He is the Wonderful Counselor.
  - When you feel weak, outmatched or powerless, He is the Mighty God.
  - When you feel abandoned, unseen, or forgotten, He is the Everlasting Father.
  - When you feel anxious, restless, or fearful, He is the Prince of Peace.

**Application:**

- Hope Because Darkness Is Not the Final Word
- Hope Because Christ Breaks Every Yoke of Oppression
- Hope Because Our King is Perfect in Every Way We Are Not.

**Possible Discussion Questions:**

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
  - Who is the authority in your life? When going through a difficult time, where do you go?
  - Which of the four couplets in the passage has the most meaning for you (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)? Which one do you feel God is speaking to you now in this season of your life?
  - What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?
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**Introduction**

Advent - lighting of candles

- Historical origin: In 1839, a pastor in Germany. Developed a tool to teach children as they excitedly looked forward to when Christmas was.
- Today, have four candles of Advent

- Each of the candles have a meaning.
  - Candle of hope: the Prophet's candle
  - Candle of peace: the Bethlehem candle
  - Candle of joy: the Shepherd's candle
  - Candle of love: the Angel's candle
  - Additional candle: Candle of light: Christ's candle
- Sermon series this December.

**Passage:**

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**EXPOSITION**

**Context of Passage**

Isaiah was a prophet to Israel and Judah.

- He was communicating a message of judgment
  - you have turned your backs to God. God will bring nations to bring about judgment where the nation will be conquered and the temple will be destroyed.
  - yet there was also a message of hope and light as God also informed them of the Messiah, one who would come for their sins.

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

*The people who walked in darkness*

What darkness?

- Hypocritical in their worship
  - They went through the motions but their hearts were away from God.
- Rebellious against God.
- Idolatry and pagan worship
- Pride and arrogance.
- Greed and injustice. (Isaiah 5:8)
- Drunkenness and moral decay was prevalent (Isaiah 5:11)
- Moral perversion was common (Isaiah 5:20)
  - Calling evil good and good evil.
- Rejection of God's Word

Likewise:

- These characteristics of Israel and Judah is now common of our world today.
- Even at a point of great technology, we still live in darkness.
  - many struggle with depression and anxiety.
  - According to a Gallup Study, almost 20% of adults in the U.S. have been or are currently treated for depression.

What can be done?

- Look to Jesus Christ, the living hope of glory!

Who is this Light?

- Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

Isaiah 9:1-5 (NLT)

"Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their

shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian."

How is Jesus the light?

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 12:46

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

Matthew 4:16

the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

John 1:4-5

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 2:32

a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

THE ONLY WAY YOU OVERCOME DARKNESS IS BY TURNING ON THE LIGHT.

- That's why you don't defeat spiritual darkness by working harder.
- You defeat darkness by LETTING JESUS IN.
- Hope does not come from self-effort-it comes from the Light Himself.

### **Jesus' deity and humanity**

- Four couplets that balance these.

### **Wonderful Counselor**

The word *wonderful* refers to the power to work supernatural signs, while counselor refers to providing wise advise, as rooyal advisors did for the king.

- Jesus fulfills both roles - He performed signs and wonders and taught with divine wisdom

Do you see Jesus as a Wonderful Counselor?

- How does Jesus counsel?
  - He speaks to us through His Word.
    - We open His Word by getting HIs counsel.

- Who is the authority in your life?
  - When going through a difficult time, where do you go?
    - People only have authority as given by God's Word.
    - God's Word is the ultimate authority
      - Not your pastor
      - Not your therapist
      - Not your friend.
- Trust Jesus as your Counselor. Only He can do wonders.

### **Mighty God.**

- The word *mighty* was commonly used of powerful warriors capable of decisive victory (Judges 11:1)
- Yet the word God is fully divine - the most common term for deity in the Old Testament.
- Together the titles reveal Christ's infinite power: our omnipotent warrior who's ill one day return to judge and conquer all enemies.
- Do you trust God that He will fight for you?

### **Everlasting Father**

- The term father is an everyday human word, but when joined to everlasting, it becomes supernatural-describing One whose origins stretch into eternity past and whose fatherhood continues forever (cf. Mal. 4:2).
- And while Scripture usually reserves fatherhood for God the Father, Jesus does exercise a fatherly role toward His disciples, often addressing people affectionately as son or daughter (Matt. 9:2; Mark 5:34).
- When you feel alone or abandoned, turn to Jesus. There is always a light on for you (you are always welcome back home).
- Jesus always welcomes you home. He wants you to be back.

### **Prince of Peace**

Jesus reigns as a prince, a familiar term for a governmental ruler (for example in Isa. 34-12-497).

- But unlike earthly warrior-kings, He is a ruler who brings peace and embodies peace.

- After His resurrection, He repeatedly spoke peace to His disciples (for example John 14:27).
- Until you make peace with God, nothing else matters.
  - You may have money or influence or success but lack peace (restless as always want another thing)
- Peace with God can come only through Jesus. Not the world.

### **His government and its peace will never end**

- The Hebrew word translated "increase" (or "vast" conveys the idea of ever growing abundance (Isa, 7:22) and multiplication (Gen. 1:28). Christ's kingdom, therefore, will be characterized by the unending multiplication of its prosperity.
- Andy Davis: "The 'increase' of His government is the infinite expansion of our joy, understanding, worship, and delight in Christ for all eternity."
- One day, Jesus will have full control over all the earth.

### **APPLICATION**

#### **Hope Because Darkness Is Not the Final Word**

- No matter how deep the darkness in your life - grief, illness, anxiety, relational strain, sin struggles
- God declares that darkness is temporary for those who\* belong to Him.
- Hope does not deny the darkness; it declares that the darkness will not win.
- Your story is not defined by what you are walking through, but by the Light who has come into your darkness.
- If you are not a Christian, dear friend, whatever darkness you bring into this room today, the Light has come for you to give you hope and true change.

#### **Hope Because Christ Breaks Every Yoke of Oppression**

- Jesus has come to break the yokes we cannot break ourselves: shame, addiction, fear, bitterness, despair, sin.
- Whatever burden you are carrying, Christ does not just sympathize with you — He breaks it.
- Hope means we no longer live crushed under what once controlled us.
- With Christ, there is always hope and help.

#### **Hope Because Our King is Perfect in Every Way We Are Not.**

Isaiah gives us four names for the Messiah-Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- These are not poetic ornaments; they are lifelines of hope for real people in real darkness.
  - Every title answers a deep ache of the human soul.
    - When you feel confused or overwhelmed or don't know what to do, He is the Wonderful Counselor.
    - When you feel weak, outmatched or powerless, He is the Mighty God.
    - When you feel abandoned, unseen, or forgotten, He is the Everlasting Father.
    - When you feel anxious, restless, or fearful, He is the Prince of Peace.
- His name is the answer to every need of the human heart. His name is Jesus

**For the Non-Christian:**

Christmas is not an event but a gift to receive.

You don't need to stay in the darkness.

God's light has already come. It has changed lives.

Bring Him your wounds, your anxieties, your life. Come to the Light. Come to the Hope of Christmas: Jesus Christ.