

"Christmas thru the Eyes of Isaiah"

Isaiah 9:1-7

Introduction: Tomorrow, we celebrate one of the greatest events in the history of the world. It is the birth of Jesus Christ. To some people it is nothing but a time of gathering with friends and family. To others it is a time of gifts and giving. With many people it is a time of stress and pressure. In all of this many people miss what Christmas is all about. Today I want to take you back to Isaiah's day and I want us to see Christmas through the eyes of Isaiah. Isaiah wrote his letter about 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

When Isaiah writes of the birth of Jesus in Isaiah 9, he gives a very interesting background that helps us to see who the Baby in the manger really is.

I. The Identity of the Baby

I want to begin by looking at how Isaiah describes the Baby and then we shall look at the background.

Notice Isaiah 9:6a.

Isaiah points out 2 especially important points in the beginning of this verse.

- "Unto us a child is born."

This speaks of the humanity of Jesus Christ. This is especially important. Christmas is the time when God became a Man for us. There are 2 points to consider here.

- a. He became a man because in order to qualify to be the Sacrifice for man He had to be of the same family. In other words, our sacrifice could not be an angel nor could it be an animal.

Hebrews 10:3-5, 9-10, 14

³ *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

⁵ *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

⁹ *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

b. He became a man to `be able to relate to what we experience.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Notice Isaiah 9:6a again.

➤ "Unto us a Son is given."

This speaks of the Deity of Jesus Christ meaning that He was fully God. This is so important because there was no man who qualified to be the sinless Sacrifice for our sins. Only God is sinless and therefore He took upon Himself a human body and came into the world to be the Savior of all mankind.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

The Baby in the manger was God in the flesh and there are many people who deny that Truth, but let me just say that if the Baby was not God, then His sacrifice upon the cross did nothing for us. We are therefore still in our sins because if He were just a man like we are then His sacrifice would not be accepted by the Father. Jesus had to be God because if He were just a man then He would have had a sin nature.

Notice Isaiah 9:6a again.

"The government will be upon His shoulders."

This has the idea of a King wearing the royal robe over His shoulders. Here in Isaiah, it tells the Jews that the child that is born and the Son that is given will be their King/Messiah. He will be the One to govern the nation.

II. The Names given to the Baby.

Notice Isaiah 9:6

❖ Wonderful Counselor

The word "wonderful" here can be translated "supernatural." Jesus is the Supernatural Counselor. Let me explain what this means. He knows all about our future and therefore when we come to Him for counsel, we can be sure that He knows exactly what we need.

Psalm 139:1-6

O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Notice Isaiah 9:6 again.

❖ The Mighty God

Notice that Isaiah does not say A Mighty god, but He says THE MIGHTY GOD! This speaks of more than just His deity. It is speaking of His power and as God there is nothing or no one who can stand in His way of carrying out His will. For us it means that as THE MIGHTY GOD there is nothing in our lives that is bigger or more powerful than He is. There is not one trial, storm, challenge, problem or not one need that He cannot meet.

Jeremiah 32:27

²⁷ Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

³¹ *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Notice Isaiah 9:6

❖ **The Everlasting Father**

This title has confused many people. This does not mean that Jesus is the Father. He and the Father are separate in the Trinity. This is a reference to "TIME." Jesus is everlasting meaning that He is eternal just as the Father is eternal. Jesus has existed in eternity past and He will forever exist in eternity future. It has the idea that Jesus is the source or author of eternity. The Baby who was born in Bethlehem and placed in the manger is the Creator of everything. Paul puts it into words in Colossians.

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

¹⁶ *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

¹⁷ *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Notice Isaiah 9:6 again.

❖ **The Prince of Peace**

This speaks of the peace that will exist within the earthly Kingdom. Today there is no world peace but for us who know Jesus Christ we can have peace within our hearts as we travel through this world and that peace comes from Jesus Christ.

We have peace with God and the peace of God.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

III. The Background

Notice Isaiah 8:22-9:1

These verses speak of the Assyrian invasion and captivity of the northern tribes. The Assyrians would come into the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali and they would come by the way of the sea which was a popular route. The people of the northern tribes would suffer great affliction under the Assyrians. But there was a hope.

Notice Isaiah 9:2

The Light would break through the darkness but how?

Matthew 4:13-16

¹³ *And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:*

¹⁴ *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,*

¹⁵ *The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;*

¹⁶ *The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*

Jesus came to the very region so He was the Light.

Application:

The spiritual condition of Israel was also a picture of our spiritual condition. We too walked in darkness; we lived in the land of the shadow of death. We were captive to our sin with no way of escape. Then there was a Child born and a Son given.

If you are not saved then you still live in the land of the shadow of death. You are still captive to your sin and you cannot escape.

Romans 6:17-18

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

The Baby in Bethlehem came to set you free from your slavery.

Notice Isaiah 9:3

The Baby born in Bethlehem can fill you with joy that the world can never offer.

John 15:11

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Notice Isaiah 9:4

Here is what Jesus can do for you. He will take the burden you carry. If you are unsaved, you carry a burden of guilt. He will clear your conscience.

Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Notice Isaiah 9:5

There will come a day when Israel's battles will be over and God will give them the victory.

Conclusion:

When you come to Jesus Christ, He will give you victory. Victory over your sin.

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*