

# The Prince that Brings Everlasting Peace

Christmas Light for Human Darkness—part 3

December 15, 2019

Isaiah, like any Old Testament prophet speaks in present tense to his audience, but also in future tense, both to them and to us!

## **DAY 1: Darkness can be dispelled by God's light**

*Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—*

1. The passage begins with “Nevertheless” referring to how chapter 8 ended. A time of judgment was to ensue on the nation, a time of “judicial darkness” for the “darkness” of human sin.

2. If the people will repent, then their future would be bright and the darkness of both the human heart and judgment could be dispelled!

3. The prophecy has been predicting a soon-to-happen disaster of invasion, followed by the amazing light that will come of God incarnate, who will come amidst the people and particularly in Galilee!

4. Isaiah mentions two regions where judgment would come, in Zebulun and Naphtali. Two different nations would invade the land, the Syrians and later, the Assyrians.

5. In spite of this terrible news, God would bring a future time of honor! This, of course, would be dependent on the people's repentance.

*Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

6. This passage is quoted by Matthew as fulfilled in Jesus Christ! (Matthew 4:12-25)

7. The message of Jesus, in its most succinct form is...

*Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

8. The darkness in our human nature can be dispelled. Our part is to repent, and let the “kingdom of heaven” do its work in us of salvation and regeneration.

9. What strikes you from today's devotions?

## DAY 2: The coming joy

*Isaiah 9:3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.*

1. In the middle of this prophecy, Isaiah speaks of three coming events. (The context of the entire passage gives us this conclusion, as well as which parts of the prophecy have yet to be fulfilled!)

2. He is speaking to:

a. Those present and the near present who will return from captivity in surrounding nations.

b. Those who will be among those from whom the Light of the Messiah comes! This group is the large number of Christians that have turned from darkness to Him!

c. The culmination of this entire prophecy won't have its ultimate fulfillment until after the Second Coming of Christ, when all the darkness will once and for all be dispelled!

3. The theme of this verse is that joy that will ensue!!!

a. What is the source of their joy?

b. "They rejoice before you..."

What does Isaiah envision in the future? What does it mean to "rejoice before the Lord?"

c. The first illustration of the type of joy has to do with farmers who have brought in an abundant harvest. What strikes you about this image of joy?

d. The second illustration has to do with soldiers who have endured battle, lived to fight another day, and have been victorious! Now they are dividing up the plunder that has been left behind! What strikes you about this kind of joy?

4. What is the source you "typically" look for to have your joy?

5. What do you learn from this verse, today, about joy?

### **DAY 3: The joy of future deliverance!**

*Isaiah 9:4...as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.*

1. Isaiah uses a famous past victory and astounding deliverance to give the people hope of what is going to happen again.

2. “Midian’s defeat” refers to the time of Gideon. The nation of Midian invaded Israel every year and took away everything-- crops and livestock that they could steal from a helpless Israel.

3. The people called out to God, and God raised up a very unlikely hero, Gideon. A small band of three hundred men routed an army of one hundred and twenty thousand men! (The entire story is told in Judges 6-8).

4. Isaiah’s audience could not fathom such a reoccurrence. They had sinned grievously and would undergo a severe judgement at the hands of the Syrians, Assyrians, and eventually the Babylonians. Many would be taken away into captivity.

5. Has there been a time in your life where you failed miserably in your faith and obedience like these Israelites? As you look back on failure, what strikes you about it?

6. Can you hear the hope of this prophetic verse spoken to you?!?!

7. The deliverance Isaiah prophesies is complete. He uses three illustrations with which they would have been familiar.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

## **DAY 4: God's ultimate deliverance over every evil**

*Isaiah 9:5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.*

1. The deliverance that is coming will be in the near present for the people there, but **fully** arrives at the end of human time on earth.
2. The parallel with the Battle of Armageddon is striking!

*Joel 3:9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. <sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!' <sup>11</sup> Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD! <sup>12</sup> 'Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. <sup>13</sup> Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!' <sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

*Zechariah 14:13 On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other.*

3. What parallels do you see in the Joel 3 and Zechariah 14 verses?

*Isaiah 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.*

*Revelation 14:20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.*

4. What parallels do you see in the Isaiah 63:3 and Revelation 14:20?

*Isaiah 66:15 See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.*

*Isaiah 66:16 For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men, and many will be those slain by the LORD.*

*Joel 2:30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

5. What parallels do you see in Isaiah 66:15-16 and Joel 2:30?

6. What strikes you about God's ultimate deliverance over evil, and for His people?

## DAY 5: The eternal deliverance!

*Isaiah 9:6 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

Over the past two weeks we looked at Isaiah 9:6 in detail. (If you missed this you can find the first two messages in December, 2019, to explore the meaning of these verses. [www.pacificchurch.com](http://www.pacificchurch.com)).

1. In verse seven Isaiah sees that the Messiah will reign over His kingdom.
  
2. There are a number of characteristics of that coming reign with which we can joyfully anticipate!!! Next to each of the characteristics below, jot down what strikes you:
  - a “Of ...**peace** there will **be no end.**”
  
  - b. “He will reign on David’s throne.” David had died about two hundred years prior to this prophecy. Jesus would not come for another eight hundred years. It’s been two thousand years since His resurrection. Yet, when He does reign you will be able to trace back Messiah’s lineage all the way back to David!
  
  - c. “He will reign ...over His kingdom.”  
His kingdom has no physical boundaries. It is not limited by time or space. God’s kingdom includes everyone what has allowed Jesus to become their king!
  
  - d. The life we will enjoy in heaven will be governed forever *by justice and righteousness!*
  
  - e. “The **zeal** of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”  
This is not left up to the faithfulness of any person or the Church, but will be accomplished because He will make it happen!
  
3. What strikes you about the ultimate deliverance His people will one day, and then for all eternity, enjoy?