

2022 Advent-Christmas Sermon Series on Isaiah 9:1-7

Review

November 30, Wednesday, Advent I - Isaiah 9:1

Isaiah's ministry as a prophet (and a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem) was from about 740 BC to about 681 BC. 10,000s of people from the ten northern tribes of Israel, which had already split off politically and religiously, were taken away in brutal captivity by the Assyrian empire during Isaiah's life. When the ten tribes left worship of the LORD God, they rejected His blessings and protection. Yet it was a dark, dark time to see the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob suffer and scattered. Isaiah's prophecy in 9:1-7 speaks of the time when this great spiritual darkness of the land would receive God's light.

November 30, Wednesday, Advent I - 9:1

Isaiah prophesied about the time when the ministry of Jesus would light up the tribal areas of Zebulun and Naphtali – where Nazareth and Capernaum in the land of Galilee were located. Galilee was the place of the “Gentiles”, the nations. The “way of the sea” was a major, ancient and well used trade route than ran through the area. Jesus' ministry would reach many people in darkness.

December 7, Wednesday, Advent II – Isaiah 9:2-3

9:2-3 – The darkness that covered the people was not a physical darkness. People of all ages strive to have light in their lives, and the people of Zebulun and Naphtali had no less physical light than other areas. But there was a deep spiritual darkness that God's light in Jesus would break. When this light of God would come, there would be great rejoicing as God expands His kingdom to many peoples.

December 14, Wednesday, Advent III – Isaiah 9:4-5

Both verses 4 and 5 (and also verse 6) begin with “for.” These simple words “for” show us that Isaiah's prophecy continues and explains what he just said in verses 2-3. Why and how would the spiritual darkness be scattered as Isaiah prophesied in 9:2? Why and how would the rejoicing take place as prophesied in 9:3?

9:4 The yoke, staff and rod of the oppressor of God's people will be broken as on the “day of Midian.” The day of Midian refers to God's victory recorded in Judges 7 under Gideon's leadership. Isaiah's prophecy recalls this victory from more than 500 years before his own life. With only 300 soldiers God overthrew a great army gathered against Israel. In fact, the LORD God narrowed Israel's army down to 300 so that all would know that indeed this was a miraculous victory. So also, Isaiah prophesies, will the LORD's victory be great and miraculous one day.

9:5 – The LORD's victory would be so great and the peace so lasting that the warrior's boots and clothing could be burned in a fire – they are not needed any more at all. Workers no longer need their boots when the work is completely over – the LORD's victory would be complete.

We considered an example of Jesus' ministry and power over all spiritual darkness in His healing of a man possessed by many demons as recorded in Luke 8:26-29.

- Jesus had complete power over a legion (1000's) of demons, sending them into a herd of pigs.
- The possessed man who had been naked, living among the tombs and in complete spiritual darkness was delivered by Jesus and became totally normal and clothed.
- The deliverance was completely done by Jesus, no mere human could overpower the demons.
- The deliverance was astonishing, even shocking and scary to unbelievers.
- The delivered man believed in Jesus, and Jesus sent him out rejoicing and telling of Jesus's power and love.
- Jesus fulfilled the prophesies of Isaiah with His ministry, death and resurrection.

Today's Sermon Notes, December 24 – Isaiah 9:6 – “The Names of Baby Jesus Are Good News!

“For...” – Verse 6 begins with the word “For.” This means that we continue to learn in verse 6 (along with verses 4 and 5) how the LORD God will accomplish the great spiritual light shining and great victory promised in verses 1-3.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...

- The LORD God's great shining light and victory will be accomplished through a _____ boy to be born. The LORD's promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 will be fulfilled.

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

- During Isaiah's day the Assyrian empire was attacking and overtaking the northern kingdom. There was spiritual darkness already in that the northern kingdom was worshipping idols, and all the more that a pagan nation had captured the government. Hope is for both Isaiah and us...

- The promised Baby to be born would bear Kingship, Governorship, Rulership. We know Jesus said His kingdom was not of this _____. (John 18:33-38) In fact, Jesus' kingdom is _____ this world! What would His kingdom be like? Isaiah's prophesy of the names of the Baby teaches us..

Wonderful / Counselor, - This name can be translated as one or two (KJV). Either way, this King is to be amazingly wise. With authentic _____ to learn from Him. (See John 18:37-38)

Mighty God, This Baby to be Born is God. Unless absolutely true, this statement is blasphemy (!)

Everlasting Father, This Baby is One with the Father. (John 10:30; 17:21). The Baby will reveal God the Father perfectly.

Prince of Peace. – This Baby will be the Source and Ruler of shalom with God and with people. (John 20:19-23)