

August 14, 2022

“God Promised a Righteous Lord”
Lesson 2 of Unit

Isaiah 9:1-7

Intro

Even though today's technology allows expecting parents to know their baby's gender before it's born, they can't know how that child will develop or what he/she will do with their life. Some of us think we might have liked to know that before, but for most of us, it's a joy to see how the child develops, what their interests become.

That's not the case in today's passage. This child was predicted hundreds of years in advance. Who He would be and what He would do were also known and predicted. This is one of the most famous and well-known prophesies in the Bible.

All the verses in this passage speak about occurrences that bring joy to the people.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

1. vs. 1: This verse seems mostly to be referring to a future for Israel as a nation

Assyria was threatening to overrun the entire area

Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel were threatening to invade Jerusalem

Young King Ahaz refused to ask God for help or for a sign through Isaiah

God gave him a sign anyway: “Immanuel” would come (Is. 7:14)

Ahaz ignored this, and God gave him another sign—the birth of Isaiah's son

The prophecy says “there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress”

God is going to deliver Israel from this difficult situation

God says He will honor Galilee, called Galilee “of the Gentiles”

This area will have people from many nations, not just Jews

2. vs. 2: The people referred to here are “walking in darkness” and living in the “shadow of death”

These people are not interested in walking in the light

To “walk” here means to live; this is how these people have chosen to live.

Despite this choice, God has given “a light”

It's already seen as being in the past

“have seen a great light” / “a light has dawned”

Light is a usual reference to God himself or to his presence

Matthew quotes this verse (4:16) in referring to Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Like the people in this verse, the people Jesus ministered to didn't want to walk in the light

3. vs. 3: God here promises to enlarge the nation of Israel

This is most likely a reference to Gentiles coming into the land, not just Jews

These people will rejoice, like at harvest, or as people when dividing plunder

They are rejoicing at the coming of the light in vs. 2—Jesus

4. vs. 4: A victory is predicted here, and is compared to one in Israel's past

Midian was defeated by Gideon and his forces, about 400 years before the prophecy

Gideon's group also had men from Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali

All of these tribes are near the area of Galilee

This seems to connect to people's disbelief in Jesus because He was from Galilee

The people in Gideon's day were delivered from a yoke, a bar, and a rod

These are all symbols of oppression and subjugation

In Jesus' day, it will be the Romans who have oppressed and subjugated

Jesus comes to deliver from the oppression of sin

5. vs. 5: This verse speaks to the end of war

Warrior's boots are no longer needed

Clothes that have been stained with blood can be destroyed

Both are going to be burned, to be removed

6. vs. 6: We aren't the parents here, but note the words used about this child

"To us", "is given": the child is intended for us

This child is the coming Immanuel

See previous references in Is. 7:14, 8:1, 8:8, and 8:10

The word government refers to rule and dominion, to being the authority in charge

The coming Immanuel will have the government on His shoulders!

His rule will be just, unlike what the people experienced in vs. 4

The second part of the verse lists the names of this child

They show the qualities and the character this child will have

"Wonderful"

The word refers to the idea of the supernatural

In Ps. 78:12, the same Hebrew word is translated "miracles"

It refers to something out of the ordinary

Immanuel = "God with us"—this qualifies as a "wonder"

"Counselor"

Solomon was given wisdom that came from God

Others were awed by Solomon's exceptional wisdom

This child will have wisdom greater than Solomon (see Luke 11:31)

"Mighty God" / "Everlasting Father"

Both of these point to the child's divine nature/character

The title of "Everlasting Father" is only used in this verse in the whole OT

This child will be both Mighty and Everlasting

Humans can be mighty; only God can be Everlasting

The combination of both shows how this child is far beyond man

"Prince of Peace"

War is typical in the rules of earthly kings

This child will be known for bringing peace

Jesus brought peace between God and humanity

There is now a reconciliation because of Christ's redeeming work

7. vs. 7: This verse contains a depth of good news that brings joy!

This child's government will continue to increase

It is a government of peace and justice, of redemption

Peace will continue without end

Justice and righteousness will continue from the time of His kingdom's start to eternity

And how has all this come about?

"The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this"

God caused the exodus from Egypt

God brought Christ into the world "at the right time"

God established and protected the church and its growth

Application: Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" and Jesus answered, "It is as you say." In Mark's account, Pilate asks if Jesus is the Christ, and He responds, "I am." After Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and the church was born. God has continued to lead and protect His church from that time until now; we are called to act in ways that bring about as much righteousness and justice to the earth as we are capable of.

We recognize that this world will never be the same as the one that will be in place when Jesus' eternal reign enters its final phase. That sad fact should not stop us from doing what we can for as long as we can to as many as we can.

Prayer: Father God, teach us to depend on your righteous rule through Jesus Christ, who is our Lord. Help us not to fear the power or the wrong done by human governments. We desire to be citizens of Your kingdom, and to work for You in doing acts of peace and righteousness. In Jesus' name, Amen.