

THE LONG ARC OF CHRISTMAS GLORY

Sunday, December 21, 2025 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

ISAIAH 9:1-7

- 1 **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.
- 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 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.
- 7 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.

THE SETTING OF THIS MASSIVE PROPHECY:

Isaiah chapters 7 – 8

- Judah refuses to _____.
- They fear _____ more than _____.
- They seek mediums and necromancers instead of _____ . (see 8:20)
- God declares coming judgment through _____.

The final words of chapter 8 are devastating:

“They will be thrust into thick darkness.” (Isa. 8:22)

Then comes Isaiah 9:1 — and it begins with: _____...

When God's people refuse His Word and seek guidance elsewhere, the result is darkness — yet God still promises _____, not because of their faithfulness, but because of His.

I. THE LONG _____ — _____ BY GOD.

Isaiah 9:6–7a *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;"*

1. Christmas began with _____, not surprise.

Here is the scripture trail...

- Genesis 3:15 After our Fall into sin, God curses the serpent with a clue of salvation:
*"The **seed** of the woman shall bruise your head."*
- Genesis 12:3 God tells Abraham, *"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
- 2 Sam 7:12–13 God tells King David: *"I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."*
- Isaiah 7:14 *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son."*
- Micah 5:2 *"From you shall come forth... one who is to be ruler in Israel."*

God announced His coming redemption IMMEDIATELY after _____.

Christmas is **not** God reacting to sin, but God executing a plan _____.

2. The Child of Mary is _____, but the Son of God is _____. vs 6

'born' speaks of true _____.

'given' speaks of eternal _____.

- Humanity assumed; deity bestowed on earth's trouble.
- John 1:1, 14 *"The Word was God... and the Word became flesh."*
- Galatians 4:4 *"When the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son, born of woman."*

II. THE LONG _____ — _____ FOR BY ISRAEL.

Isaiah 9:2 *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

1. Israel waited in darkness but with _____.

- Luke 2:25–35 Simeon *"Waiting for the consolation of Israel."*
- Luke 2:36–38 *"Waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."*
- Malachi 4:2 *"But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings."*

God did not allow the darkness to extinguish _____.

Waiting shaped Israel into a people who longed for _____.

Faithful Jews came to see they didn't merely need relief but _____.

2. The light dawned decisively. Isaiah 9:2 *"...on them a light has shone."*

- John 8:12 Jesus declared: *"I am the light of the world."*
- Luke 1:78–79 Zechariah prophesied: *"The sunrise shall visit us from on high."*
- Matthew 2:2 The Magi said: *"We saw his star... and have come to worship him."*

God's salvation happens by _____ **not** human discovery.

Light does not evolve; it _____.

Genesis 1:3 – *And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light.*

III. THE LONG _____ — _____ BY CHRIST

Isaiah 9:6b *"And the government shall be upon his shoulder."*

1. The child was born to rule through _____.

- Isaiah 53:3 *"A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."*
- Luke 2:7 *"She laid Him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn."*
- John 1:11 *"He came to His own, and his own people did not receive him."*
- Mark 10:45 He came *"to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

JESUS: Rejected at _____, misunderstood in _____, executed in _____.

Three years of ministry — thousands healed — yet _____.

The cross was not a tragic interruption; it was the _____.

2. His names reveal His _____.

- *Wonderful Counselor* — divine _____ incarnate.
- *Mighty God* — true _____ revealed.
- *Everlasting Father* — eternal _____ & _____.
- *Prince of Peace* — peace through the _____ (see Colossians 1:20).

IV. THE LONG _____ — PROCLAIMED BY THE CHURCH

Isaiah 9:7a *"Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end."*

1. Redemption is _____ and _____.

- John 10:28 *"I give them eternal life."*
- Romans 8:1 *"There is therefore now no condemnation."*
- Ephesians 1:7 *"In him we have redemption through his blood."*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [But what about those who have died??]

*16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, **and so we will always be with the Lord.** 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

2. The zeal of the Lord _____ the outcome!

Isaiah 9:7b — *"The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."*

What does this mean?

God is extremely _____ about keeping His promises!

Christmas joy is _____ because God Himself guarantees the outcome.

Christmas is *not* sentimental nostalgia but sovereign_____.

Christmas is the unveiling in _____ of what God decreed in _____.