

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 trust the LORD.
- They fear other nations more than God.
- They seek mediums and necromancers instead of God's Word . (see 8:20)
- God declares coming judgment through Assyria.

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: BUT...

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

I. THE LONG FORETOLD — PROMISED BY GOD.

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

1. Christmas began with promise, 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 the fall.

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

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

‘born’ speaks of true humanity.

‘given’ speaks of eternal deity.

- 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 AWAITED — HOPED FOR BY ISRAEL.

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

1. Israel waited in darkness but with hope.

- 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 hope.

Waiting shaped Israel into a people who longed for rescue.

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

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 divine invasion **not** human discovery.

Light does not evolve; it appears.

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

III. THE LONG EXECUTED — ACCOMPLISHED BY CHRIST

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

1. The child was born to rule through suffering.

- 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 birth, misunderstood in life, executed in death.

Three years of ministry — thousands healed — yet condemned.

The cross was not a tragic interruption; it was the intended mission.

2. His names reveal His mission.

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

IV. THE LONG REDEMPTION — PROCLAIMED BY THE CHURCH

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

1. Redemption is complete and eternal.

- 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 guarantees the outcome!

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

What does this mean?

God is extremely passionate about keeping His promises!

Christmas joy is secure because God Himself guarantees the outcome.

Christmas is *not* sentimental nostalgia but sovereign intervention.

Christmas is the unveiling in time of what God decreed in eternity.