

The Coming Messiah

(Isaiah 9:1-7)

INTRODUCTION

My son, Paul, and several of his friends, while they were in Middle school decided to make a time capsule to be opened in 10 years after they moved from being a student to a working adult. They were looking forward to getting together to check out what they had written to themselves and to each other. 10 years later, they got together with great excitement. Afterward, they decided to make another time capsule to be opened 10 years later. Well, that second 10 years occurred this year. Now, they have moved from being singles to fathers of several children. As they were approaching this year, Paul and all of his friends were excited and looking forward to their reunion. This long awaited time allowed them to look back as well as to look forward.

As we enter the advent season, we look back to Christ's birth and look forward to Christ's return. The word advent means arrival. Throughout the O.T., prophets prophesied of a Messiah, which means the Anointed one. There were three offices that were anointed by God, namely, prophet, priest and king. The Jews for the longest time were eagerly waiting for the arrival of this coming Messiah, who would reign as king. They were focusing more on the physical deliverance instead of the spiritual deliverance. That is why, when Christ first came, they rejected Him. The word Christ means Messiah. The messiah will come back during the second advent to reign as King of kings. Today's message is entitled "The Coming Messiah." This message can be broken into two sections: First, we will look at the New hope in the Messiah and Second, the New Understanding of the Messiah. Before looking into our passage from Isaiah 9:1-7, I wanted to give you some background to this passage.

A. New Hope in the Messiah

During the time of Isaiah, their nation was in sad shape. King Ahaz, who ruled over the Southern kingdom, Judea, made many foolish decisions that got the country into a terrible bind. The king was concerned about the possible attack from the Northern kingdom, Israel, and Syria. Instead of going before the Almighty God, King Ahaz decided to go to the biggest bully he could find, the Assyrians, to protect them. The Assyrians took his money and promised to safeguard them. Ahaz felt secure temporarily. Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would turn against the Jews and attack them. The Assyrians would conquer the Jews & bring them into bondage in the near future. That was a gloomy forecast.

As we look around us today, we are living in gloomy situation. Like King Ahaz, our government has made some unwise decisions through the years that have moved our country from a lender to a debtor. Our country owes about 20 trillion dollars and it is mounting. Yes, that is with 13 zeros. Unemployment is high. Small businesses are struggling to survive because of the shutdown. Marriages and families are falling apart. There are more broken relationships between husband and wife as well as parents and children than any time. There is great racial tension before us. Our country is divided on many issues. We are in the midst of a dark, gloomy time. The solution is not found in who might be the next president, but the solution is found in the coming Messiah.

In spite of the gloomy forecast, Isaiah prophesied new hope in the future. Isaiah introduced the advents of Christ, the arrival of the Messiah. Isaiah did not realize that there are two advents. He will come the first time to save man spiritually and the second time to rule as King of kings.

In Isaiah 9:1-7, he speaks of the coming Messiah, who would deliver the nation out of darkness into His marvelous light. Isaiah promises that there will be no more gloom. Instead, he promises that God will honor Galilee. There is new hope in the Messiah. The first promise can be seen in vv1-2. The Messiah will give light to the people. READ v. 1a,2 “But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish... 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.” 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.]

1. The Messiah will Give Light (vv.1-2)

It is no fun being in darkness. Many lost power because of Hurricane Harvey. Without power, we cannot see very well and can easily stumble and knock over things hurting ourselves. Life is like that. Without proper light, we can hurt ourselves. The coming Messiah will come to give us light. Unless our country turns back to the light, our country will not have hope.

2. The Messiah will Increase Their Joy (v.3)

Another wonderful promise that Isaiah said was that the Messiah will increase their joy. [Isa. 9:3, “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.”] Although they are in the midst of darkness, it is comforting to know that the Messiah will increase their joy. There is a big difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is dependent on circumstances. When things are going well, then we are happy. However, joy is not dependent upon circumstances. Even when things are not going well, we can still have joy. We are joyful because we know that God is in control although we might not be in control. May we lay our uncertainties to the Lord asking Him for joy.

ILLUSTRATION: I called a friend up this week and found out that he was in the hospital for the last 3 weeks. He fell from the attic and fractured his spine. Although he went through a lot of pain, he was upbeat. He said, “I thank God for saving my life. I could have been paralyzed. God was watching over me.” In the midst of difficulties, God can give us joy. [In verse 4, Isaiah gives us another promise and new hope in the Messiah, who will deliver them from bondage. “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.”

3. The Messiah will Deliver Them from Bondage (v.4)

In verse 4, Isaiah was recalling the days of Gideon, who lived in bondage as slaves to the Midianites, who had a great and mighty army. There seemed to be no way for God's people to be delivered. God raised Gideon with a small army of 300 to fight the Midianites, which outnumbered them 135,000 to 300. The Midianites had swords and chariots and the Jews had sticks. The odds were not very good for Gideon, but God supernaturally gave them victory. Just like God had delivered them from the Midianite's bondage, the Messiah could deliver His people from their bondage. May we remember that 1 + God = Majority. God is bigger than anything that we are confronted with. There is nothing that He cannot handle.

APPLICATION Are we in some kind of bondage? Our Messiah could deliver us from our bondage. It might be bondage to greed, bondage of insecurity, bondage to procrastination, bondage to pornography.

ILLUSTRATION: There was a member that was addicted to pornography. He knew that it was wrong, but no matter how hard he tries out of his own efforts, he could not overcome obsession. It was not until he admitted to himself that he had an addiction and he was powerless in dealing with it. He turned to the Lord for help. He committed himself to the Lord and he got a small group of brothers to hold him accountable. It did not go away overnight. But through time, God delivered him from the addiction to pornography. The Messiah can deliver us from our bondage.

However, the biggest bondage that we are in is the bondage of sin. As we celebrate the birth of Christ this week, we need to remember that Christ came for the purpose to die on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin. That whosoever believes in Him will be set free from the bondage of sin. No longer are we separated from God, who can help us to deal with other bondage that we might have.

[The Messiah not only gives us light, but also increases our joy and delivers us from bondage. The Messiah also will bring us peace.]

4. The Messiah will Bring Peace (v.5)

When Jesus the Messiah come back to reign, there will be universal peace and there will be no need for war. All military equipment and uniforms that are so often covered with blood will be cast aside and burned. [READ Isa. 9:5, "For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire." The Messiah will come and will bring peace.

APPLICATION: We live in a world filled with conflicts, broken relationships, violence, hatred, criticism, and division. We desperately desire peace. Only Jesus the Messiah can bring us permanent peace.

[Although Israel was facing a lot of distress and darkness, Isaiah gave them new hope in the coming Messiah. We have seen what the Messiah will do. From verses 6-7, we will come to have a new understanding of the Messiah. We will see who this Messiah is. Let us read Isaiah 9:6. The first description of the Messiah will come as a God-Man. The Messiah is total man and

total God. [Isa. 9a, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.”]

B. New Understanding of the Messiah (vv.6-7)

1. The Messiah Will Come as the God-Man

Both His humanity and deity are predicted by Isaiah. The words ‘a child is born’ refer to the Messiah’s humanity. He would come to earth as a child, born through the conception of a virgin. This is a miraculous act. Christ became man to identify with us. The words, “a son is given” points to the deity of the Messiah. The child is given indicates that in some supernatural way God will send the child into the world. The words a son refers back to Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” This son refers to the divine Messiah, which is to come.

Messiah must be a man in order to identify with us. The Messiah humbled Himself to be a man to live a perfect life so that He could be the perfect sacrifice to atone for our sin once for all. The Bible said that the penalty of sin is death. Either we have to pay for it or someone else needs to pay for it. That is why Jesus came to pay the penalty of sin for all of us so that we do not have to pay for it. Jesus the Messiah needed to be a man in order to be our kinsman redeemer. And at the same time, Messiah must be God in order to save us. Jesus not only died for our sin, but He rose again three days later showing that God’s wrath had been appeased by Christ’s sacrifice. Therefore, if anyone places his faith in Christ, the Messiah, he is saved.

We also know that His name is called Immanuel, which means “God with us.” No matter what situation we might be in, God is with us. The Messiah gives us light, increases our joy, delivers us from bondage, and brings us peace. In the future, the Messiah is coming back to govern and reign on earth, which leads us to the second part of v.6. “The government will be on His shoulder.”

2. The Messiah Will Come to Govern (9:6b,7)

The Messiah will come to govern. He will have the indisputable right to govern. Jesus, the Messiah, will come back to be the King of kings and Lord of lords, who rules over the whole world with justice and righteousness. [READ Isa. 9:7, “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.”]

Jesus the Messiah will reign on David’s throne. Through the Davidic covenant, God promised King David that through his descendent, a king would rule forever. [Show 2 Sam. 7:16, “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”] During Jesus’ first advent, people anticipated Him to rule over them and deliver them from the bondage of the Roman government.

But that did not happen because He came to save the people from their sin. In His second coming, the second advent, Jesus will reign forever. [Isaiah highlights four titles that were given to the coming King. In verse 6b, the Messiah will be described as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of peace.]

3. The Messiah Will Be Described as

a. Wonderful Counselor

The word “wonderful” means beyond understanding or beyond words can describe. It is in a class by itself. When we look at the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls, we say, “Wow, that is wonderful.” Words are inadequate to describe the grandeur of what we witness. The Messiah will be called “Wonderful Counselor.” Words cannot describe the Messiah. He is in a class of his own.

The word “counselor” is one who instructs or guides from a position of authority. Because God is all-knowing, He can provide the best guidance for us. Not only does he provide the best advice, but He has the authority to resolve our problems.

Jesus lived as a man and He was able to go through all the difficulties in life so that He could sympathize with us. (Heb. 2:18; 4:15) “For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted... For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Christ can guide, encourage and strengthen us to conquer whatever trial or temptation confronts us. Let us turn to our Messiah, the wonderful counselor. He not only can guide us, but He also has the authority and power to give us victory. The Messiah is not only the wonderful counselor, but also the Mighty God.

b. Mighty God

He can do the impossible. He can do things that no one else could conceive of doing. He can rescue us from any difficulties. We are never alone. May we turn to our Messiah, who is the Mighty God. [Show Eph. 3:20] “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

ILLUSTRATION: Earlier during the year, Jonathan Ting came down with cancer and the insurance company did not want to cover the treatment. Jonathan had to raise \$120,000 for the first treatment. That seems to be an impossible task. God worked through his people to raise that amount in a couple of days. God can do the impossible because He is the Mighty God.

Application: Do we have an uncontrollable temper? Loose tongue? Unresolvable conflict? A deep depression? A rebellious child? Come to our Messiah, He is the Mighty God. As we continue in verse 6, the third description of the Messiah is that He is the Everlasting Father.

c. Everlasting Father

Jesus, our Messiah, is the Everlasting Father. He is God, one with the Father, who is from everlasting to everlasting. He is our personal father, who is always there by our side. A father loves His children. He will care for us, comfort us, instruct us, lead us, and discipline us. Some of us might have had a bad relationship with our earthly father. It seems like we can never please our dad. We crave to hear from our father, "I am proud of you." We know our Messiah is the Everlasting Father. He values us. In a matter of fact, he loves us so much and valued us so much that He died for us. He sees us as precious treasures. We matter to God. Our Everlasting Father does not blow up at us when we make a mistake, but He is patient, slow to anger, abounding in love. He is compassionate and ready to forgive us. He is not a Father that is missing in action, but is always there. [We have seen the Messiah described as the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the last description is Prince of Peace.]

d. Prince of Peace

Jesus, our Messiah, is also the Prince of peace. The word Prince indicates the Messiah will be a ruler who governs in peace. Jesus is the source of peace. First we will have peace with God. When we place our faith in our Messiah, Jesus, we are no longer separated from God anymore. Second, we can have peace with others. God can help us mend broken relationships. Third, we can have peace with ourselves. Too often, we are too critical toward ourselves. Yes, we make mistakes and are sinful. But thanks be to God that God values us and cherish us and we are called the children of God. Not only will he bring peace to the human heart, but also peace among the nations.

When the Messiah come to rule over the earth, there will be no more war, brutality, divisiveness, prejudice, hatred, or bitterness. Peace will reign. That description is what we look forward to.

Conclusion

Isaiah prophecies about this Messiah that will come to give light, increase our joy, deliver us from bondage and give us peace. The first arrival or advent took place 2000 years ago. He came to save us and set us free from the bondage of sin by dying on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin. Whoever believes in Him will never perish, but have everlasting life.

The Bible promises that He will come again in the Second Advent to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. We have a wonderful hope; we do not need to live in a gloomy environment. Jesus, our Messiah, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace will come to rule on this earth. May we respond to who He is and what He has done for us by praising Him and following Him because He is worthy.

