

A CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

ISAIAH 9:1-7

This a.m. we've just remembered Jesus' coming. We've considered the story again. Every year, as we consider the Christmas story, we ask again why He came:

What's the true "reason for the season?" Why did He come?

How do YOU answer that question?

First Advent Candle => the Prophecy candle

The whole O.T. looks forward to the coming of Messiah!

=> **Isaiah** spoke during divided kingdom,

Israel (N) moving toward destruction.

Judah also was on negative course, headed toward destruction.

Only a few good kings, esp. Hezekiah, saved southern kingdom

Both kingdoms characterized by rebellion, unbelief and idolatry.

God sent prophets to warn them, but they refused to listen.

God brought Assyria to destroy Israel (N) and take them into captivity.

PURPOSE/THEME: Pre-exilic:

Judah notorious for sin and idolatry!

God uses message of judgment to call His people to repentance.

God's about to judge Judah, destroy Jerusalem, and send people into captivity.

If they turn back to Him, He will bless them.

PROPHECIES OF JUDGMENT

Warn people to turn from sin to avoid judgment 1-35

Summary 1 Brief overview of book.

Their condition 1:2-15 Rebel against God, though they "*go through the motions!*"

God's invitation 1:16-20 Return to Him so He can cleanse and bless them

Coming Judgment 2-4 Spells out what's involved in coming judgment.

God's plan: Jerusalem, a center where people would come learn about Him and about justice.

Rather than be an example to others, **Israel became an imitator.**

They adopted worst traits from pagan nations around them.

Because of their arrogance, **God's sending judgment**

Plan for the Future 7-12

Ahaz concerned about alliance, by Israel and Syria, threatening Judah.

Comfort for Judah 7:1-16

Isaiah assures Ahaz the alliance won't prevail. It'll be destroyed.

Sign, as proof:

A virgin would give birth to a son and call him "God is with us."

Before child reaches 7 to 12 years old, captivity will come to Israel and Syria.

Ch. 8 concludes with a warning to seek Him.

If they turn back to Him, He will defend them.

Promise of restoration 9-12

Call for repentance motivates Isaiah to look ahead to time when God will restore His people.

Leaps across the centuries. => In fact, 2 leaps; both advents of Christ are in view.

NT: prophecy was partially fulfilled by ministry of our Lord in Galilee at 1st coming.

Not everything was fulfilled at His first coming.

2 comings brought together in 1 prophecy.

OT prophet: standing at distance, saw 2 mountain peaks as one.

Couldn't see valley between 2 peaks—present age between 2 advents

We who live in valley can look back on 1st coming, and forward to 2nd

DELIVERANCE FROM AFFLICTION 9:1-7

Deliverance comes when people understand God's truth and receive Messiah.

God will stop sending judgment against the north 9:1a

God will make His kingdom glorious 9:1-7

No more gloom! 1a

In the past He humbled them 1b

In the future He will honor them 1c How will *they* view what He's done?

1. A light has dawned 2

2. You have enlarged the nation 3a

3. You have increased their joy; they rejoice before you 3b

4. You have shattered the yoke that burdens them 4 (4-5) *How?* 6-7

God will make it glorious, by causing His glory to shine there. 9:1b

(Matt. 4:15-16--Jesus began His ministry there--in fulfillment of this promise!)

Our Lord fulfilled part of this prophecy as He ministered in Galilee.

Many people received "great light" of his presence.

=> ***The people who live in darkness see a great light. 9:2***

Jesus came to reveal glorious light of God to those living in darkness--as Isaiah promised--so we can see what God is like.

He pours out blessing on them 9:3-5

He brings deliverance and establishes God's kingdom.

They didn't receive political liberation because He hasn't yet established reign

[How will He accomplish this? 9:6-7]

GOD WILL SEND HIS SON 9:6-7

Government over God's people will rest on HIS shoulders

In 9:6-7, birth of King who would bring deliverance is promised.

That birth occurred at Christ's first coming.

2 natures, united in 1 Person, are indicated:

"A child is born" => refers to His genuine humanity.

"A son is given" => refers to His absolute deity.

Coming Messiah These indicate He will be:
identified by four names:

[4 pairs of descriptive expressions]

- | | | |
|------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1) Wonderful counselor | => | wise ruler |
| 2) Mighty God | => | strong ruler |
| 3) Eternal Father | => | fatherly ruler (won't abandon us!) |
| 4) Prince of peace | => | peace-giving ruler |

His roles: He is: Counselor God Father Prince

His attributes: He is: Wonderful Mighty Eternal Peace

- 1) Throughout Near East, "counselor" is a function of royalty.

This counselor is extraordinary (= he's a "wonder")

He's a wise ruler who makes wise plans.

Most kings need counselors and advisers.

He needs none for He IS the wonderful counselor!

- 2) Mighty God = Not only does He make wise plans, but He's strong enough to carry them out.

- 3) Father = Eternal benevolent, protector, provider.

"I and the Father are one"

"I am in the Father, and the Father in me."

- 4) He's a peace-bringing ruler.

Provides "*shalom*" in fullest sense--prosperity and well-being of His subjects.

His Kingdom will be different from all other kingdoms:

Extent of His kingdom greater than David's; it's universal 7a

Duration is greater; it's forever 7b

Its growth and development never end. 9:7a

There's no end to peace He comes to establish.

He establishes it and maintains it [He gets there and stays there] by **just judgment and righteousness forever.** 9:7b

God Almighty is the One who "pulls it off!" God does it!

That's the end of the story:

God sets up a different kind of kingdom with His Son on the throne!

One reason He came: to set up different kind of kingdom. One characterized by righteousness.

It's not like other human kingdoms--the kind of government you can't trust!!!

His is established on just judgment and righteousness.

It's maintained by just judgment and righteousness. You can trust this king!!!

So that people who live in darkness can see a great light--and learn what God is really like.
But before the world is ready for that kingdom.

He had to come for a different reason.

He 1st comes to die and be raised again, as Scriptures say, before He establishes the kingdom.

He came to die! --on a cross! --to pay the penalty for our sin.

Jesus' followers had a hard time with that part of the plan.

Luke 24:25-27; Matt. 8:17; John. 3:14; 12:32-34; Phil. 2:5-8

They were ready for the Son to establish the kingdom.

They weren't ready for Him to die--to pay penalty for our sin.